

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 1997

**DANIEL BABIN
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 4, 1997

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 4, 1997

Chairman Daniel Babin presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Norman McCall
Perry Gisclair
Joseph Cormier
Tom Gattle

Deputy Secretary Clyde Kimball was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Babin recognized two former employees of the Department, former Secretary Joe Herring and former Assistant Secretary Corky Perret.

Chairman Babin called for a motion for approval of the **November 6, 1997 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Cormier and seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

Colonel Winton Vidrine began the **Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year**. The Enforcement Division selects an agent of the year based on the agent's performance evaluation, the type of cases made, professional attitude, and voluntary training. A total of 10 candidates for this award are nominated each year and one is chosen. The agent is then sent to the Southeastern Association Meeting to be recognized. Col. Vidrine introduced Lt. Jeff Mayne as the Agent of the Year and presented him with a plaque from the Southeastern. Lt. Mayne is the Supervisor of the Special Investigative Unit and was primarily responsible for creating the Unit. His career began in 1986 when he was hired as a student and in 1991 he became a Wildlife Officer. Chairman Babin congratulated Lt. Mayne and requested he keep up the good work.

Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources began with Chairman Babin introducing Dr. Andy Martinolich and Mr. Glade Woods from Mississippi. He then asked Mr. Corky Perret to come forward to begin the discussion. Mr. Perret asked his regards be extended to Secretary Jenkins since he was not at the meeting. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was created approximately 3½ years ago as a spin off of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Providing a brief background, Mr. Perret stated on March 29, 1994, former Secretary Herring and others met

with Mississippi's Commission and Department to discuss issues of mutual concern. One of the problems resolved was an understanding of common boundary lakes. A meeting was held several months back between Mr. Perret, Mr. Woods, Mr. John Roussel, Mr. Mike Landrum, a Mississippi Commissioner and charter boat operators to discuss charter boat fees. House Concurrent Resolution 33 urged Louisiana's Commission to enter into a reciprocal license agreement on saltwater recreational angling. The Mississippi Commission unanimously approved their Department to meet with Louisiana to discuss such regulations. Commissioner Martinolich's motion instructed his staff to see what could currently be done under the regulations and go to the Mississippi Legislature to see if the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources could enter into a true reciprocal license agreement. Current cost of a Mississippi annual saltwater angling license is \$56 for Louisiana fishermen. This charge could be reduced to a minimum of \$20, stated Mr. Perret. If the Mississippi Legislature gave authority to the Mississippi Commission to enter into a true reciprocal license agreement and if Louisiana agreed, then Mississippi would recognize properly licensed Louisiana anglers in their waters and vice versa. Mr. Perret stated there were 588 Louisiana anglers that bought a Mississippi saltwater angling license last year. He concluded stating he would appreciate any consideration to an agreement being reached.

Commissioner Gattle asked Mr. Perret to explain the difference between the \$56 fee and the \$30 license fee. Commissioner McCall asked how many Mississippi people fish in Louisiana waters and are charged \$70? Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Janis Landry if she knew the number of people from Mississippi that buy Louisiana licenses? Mrs. Landry stated that information was not available. Chairman Babin stated he would like to see an open dialogue between the two Departments and he wanted to see what action the Mississippi Legislature will take on licenses. Mr. Perret asked Chairman Babin if Louisiana would recognize a Mississippi license if they would recognize a Louisiana license? Chairman Babin answered no, not at this point. Mr. Perret then suggested both states charge \$20 for a saltwater angling license. Chairman Babin then stated it could be considered but he wanted more input from the License Section and the Fisheries staff before making a recommendation. Commissioner McCall asked if there was any way to get information on how many licenses were sold to Mississippi fishermen? Mrs. Landry stated it would be very difficult because they would have to review each parishes licenses sold and see what state the fisherman came from. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the licenses turned in from each parish were broken down into classification? Then he asked that, when the licenses come in from now on, a program be created that would generate this type information. Mrs. Landry stated the staff is not available to do this type of data entry. Chairman Babin stated this issue creates a problem for them as a Commission. He then agreed with Commissioner Gisclair and stated he would like to know how many licenses are sold. The number of licenses available

for sale are too numerous, stated Chairman Babin, and there was a need to look at simplifying them and possibly making more licenses reciprocal with other states. Commissioner Cormier asked where was the information former Undersecretary Fred Prejean provided the Commission that showed the expected amount of revenues from license sales? Mrs. Landry stated they have a total for non-resident licenses sold, but do not have a breakdown for each state. Commissioner Gattle stated this will probably lead to computerized licensing in the future. Chairman Babin asked if Mississippi had point of sale system? Commissioner Gisclair stated he was told the Department did surveys on the socioeconomic impact studies and asked if the answers could be obtained from those surveys? Mr. John Roussel stated Mrs. Landry is correct that the Department does not have specific data on saltwater recreational fishing. He did state there were 33 Mississippians that came to Louisiana and bought other gear licenses to do recreational fishing and 564 Mississippi commercial fishermen that bought a Louisiana license. Mr. Roussel suggested this should be looked at in a comprehensive fashion. Mr. Perret reminded the Commission they only deal with the saltwater license. Chairman Babin stated the Commission will need a lot more information before they would enter into any kind of agreement. He then asked the Department to provide additional information by the February 1998 meeting. Mr. Perret stated he understood the Commission's concerns. He then asked if it would be fair to conclude that the Commission was interested in working with Mississippi on a possible reciprocal license agreement and maybe others later on. Mr. Perret then stated the staff from Mississippi will be glad to work with representatives from Louisiana. Mr. Roussel added there were 28,000 non-resident fishing licenses sold in the 1996-97 year. Mr. Perret concluded Mississippi sold 12,500 non-resident licenses in one year. Mr. Woods provided a saltwater guide pamphlet for the Commission's information. Mr. Ron Couvillion stated his office will put more information together so the Commission could be better informed.

Chairman Babin stated he requested the next item, **Discussion of Charterboat License Fees**, be placed on the agenda so he could better understand some of the license fees. He asked Mrs. Landry to explain what is required of a non-resident who comes to Louisiana to fish on a charterboat. Mrs. Landry stated the fisherman could purchase either a season license, trip license or a charter trip ticket. Most people are buying the charter trip ticket because of its low cost (\$2.50). Chairman Babin asked if the Department could check to make sure the fishermen are buying the trip tickets like they should? Commissioner Gattle asked if the charterboat captain was required to keep track of who licenses are sold to and then asked how often are the books turned into the Department? Chairman Babin explained since charterboats are not required to record their catch, there was no way of knowing if the number of tickets sold matches the trips the charterboats have. Then he asked how much money was generated from the ticket? Also he asked if the number of tickets sold means federal dollars for

this Department? Mrs. Landry stated yes. Commissioner McCall asked if the number of licenses are going down? She stated the number of trip licenses sold did go down due to the availability of charterboat tickets. Commissioner Gisclair asked how much would a non-resident pay if he stopped at Wal-Mart to buy a license to fish on a charterboat? Mrs. Landry stated it would cost \$43. Then Commissioner Gisclair stated he has heard complaints from non-residents who are legal and the charterboat captain says I could have sold you a license for \$2.50. He also felt not all charterboat captains were offering the license in their packets and there was too much disparity between the \$2.50 license and the \$43 license. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the fee was per day to which Mrs. Landry answered it was \$2.50 per trip. He then asked how do the captains date the licenses and thought the Department had no control over the licenses while the charterboat captains are on the water. Chairman Babin stated the charterboat industry has blossomed over the last 5 or 6 years and the fishing was getting better in Louisiana. He stated there was a need for more regulations and to close some of the cracks in licensing and how catches are recorded. Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Landry to provide more information on this by the February 1998 meeting. Commissioner Gattle asked what was the theory behind the \$2.50 license and how long has it been in effect? The license went into effect in 1995 because of a legislative act, stated Mrs. Landry. Commissioner Cormier asked if a charter trip could be considered starting at sunrise on Friday morning and going until Monday morning. Mrs. Landry stated the time frame was not specified. Then Commissioner Cormier assumed the legislative intent was not to be for various days or for overnight. Specifics should be included such as stating that one trip should be no longer than 12 hours. Mr. Roussel explained how the charterboat license bill came into being. Commissioner McCall stated one area of concern he had was allowing a fisherman that did not catch his limit on the morning trip to go out that afternoon for only \$2.50. Mr. Roussel reminded the Commission this \$2.50 license only applies to non-residents and does not include residents. Commissioner Cormier asked if there would be any reason why a charterboat captain would not have any licenses, such as it being a weekend or holiday and the Department was closed? Chairman Babin stated this must be a nightmare for Enforcement and there was a need to clean up this Act during the next legislative session.

A Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent on Importation of White-Tailed Deer was handled by Mr. Fred Kimmel. During the September 1997 Meeting, the Commission issued a ban on importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana. The two reasons for this action were explained by Mr. Kimmel. Most of the issues have been resolved and the packet to be considered today would allow for importation with some restrictions. These restrictions include requiring a permit before importation occurs, prohibiting importation from 10 states based on health concerns, providing proof of negative testing for tuberculosis and brucellosis, and

prohibiting the importation of white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any unlicensed enclosures. Mr. Kimmel stated this Declaration of Emergency will supplant the previous emergency rule on importation. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry has supported the provisions in this Declaration of Emergency except for the restriction on importing from certain states.

Commissioner Gattle asked if the permit for importation would be issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the veterinary certificate would be available to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries upon request? Mr. Kimmel explained the procedure to be followed for importing deer and the required veterinary certificate. Commissioner Cormier asked how could a veterinarian certificate be certified true from the point of origin. Dr. Maxwell Lea with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry explained health certificates are issued by licensed USDA accredited veterinarians. The information on the certificate is verified by the State where it is written and the original certificate accompanies the animals while transported. Mr. Fred Kimmel read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Cormier. Chairman Babin then opened the discussion for public comments.

Mr. Pinckney Wood, Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates, began reminding the Commissioners he sent them 10 pages of information he obtained on this issue. The law, as it was originally written, was specifically for the importation of exotic deer and antelope for the use of raising them as livestock and not for hunting. Mr. Wood stated he spoke with a representative from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and she explained the enforcement problem they are having. He then read a statement from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission which has banned any private ownership of these type animals. The imminent peril proclaimed in the Department of Agriculture's Declaration of Emergency was to prohibit the importation of diseased animals, stated Mr. Wood. He then went on to say this type situation should not be present that could possibly allow for illegal activities. He then stated his organization as well as the humane community was opposed to this type hunting. Mr. Wood asked to meet with a representative from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries so he could share some of the knowledge he has gained over the past several months on this subject. Chairman Babin stated the Legislature has mandated the Commission and Department to develop these regulations and they were trying to address some of the concerns. He then directed Mr. Wood to speak with Mr. Johnnie Tarver. Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Wood if he knew who the author of the bill was and then stated that was the person he needed to contact.

Hearing no further comments, the Resolution passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS,** unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and genetic alteration, and
- WHEREAS,** unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will be filed to make these regulations effective beyond the 120 days allowed under the provisions of a Declaration of Emergency.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to regulate the importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana past the January 1, 1998 expiration of the current Declaration of Emergency which bans importation of white-tailed deer. Permanent rules regulating importation have been developed. These new rules and this Declaration of Emergency will allow regulated importation of white-tailed deer in a manner which will allow monitoring and tracking of imports and will minimize threats of disease introduction into Louisiana. This Declaration of Emergency will provide for regulated importation until the permanent rule is adopted.

This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to importation of white-tailed deer that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

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C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until 4:30 p. m., February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mr. Fred Kimmel also handled the **Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent for Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope**. A Declaration of Emergency acted upon at the October 1997 Meeting set the seasons for farm raised white-tailed deer and exotics. The new Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent addresses some additional issues such as definitions, seasons, methods of take, shooting hours, bag limits, hunting permits, and tagging of each deer. This Declaration of Emergency will supplant the previous emergency rule. Commissioner Gattle asked about shotguns and using a shoulder rest. Then he asked how did the 150 acres and 2500 acres figures come about? Mr. Don Puckett stated Senator Cain requested there be a minimum size on the pens, but he did not know where those figures came from. Mr. Kimmel read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the

Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Resolution. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will begin the formal rulemaking processes to implement this Declaration of Emergency as a permanent rule.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under Authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Section 7, LSA 36:601 et seq., 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to allow for the hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics in the absence of permanent rules. A Declaration of Emergency was adopted on October 2, 1997 but will expire before the permanent rule can take effect. This Declaration of Emergency will provide continuous regulation of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic hunting until the ratification of permanent rules.

This Declaration of Emergency will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of

Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997-January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.

2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with

a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not

limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997 - January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.

2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit.

Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

The next item, **Declaration of Emergency to Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove** was handled by Mr. Ron Dugas. Two requests from Legislators from the Cameron and Calcasieu area were asking the Commission to increase the daily take limit from 10 sacks to 15 sacks. The staff has no problem with the increase from a resource standpoint with there being an abundant supply, stated Mr. Dugas. Chairman Babin asked if there was any down side risk? Mr. Dugas stated some people fear an increase in the daily take will decrease the price per sack. A similar request has been made to the Commission for the past six years. Commissioner McCall stated he has been approached by

fishermen that want it left alone and one buyer that wants the increase. All agree that the oysters from the area are becoming too large and they are having problems selling them. Commissioner McCall then recommended increasing the daily take limit to 15 sacks, try to cull some of the larger oysters and not extend the season as has been requested in the past. Chairman Babin asked what action did the Commission take over the last six years? Mr. Dugas explained the problem with the larger oysters and with the possibility of health closures, the resource needed to be utilized. Commissioner McCall made a motion to increase the daily take to 15 sacks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gattle and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER DAILY TAKE LIMIT

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Grounds have been surveyed and samples indicate that there is a significant harvestable oyster resource on the public grounds, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) allows the Commission to set daily take limits, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997/98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake, the daily take limit shall be fifteen (15) one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967 and under the authority of R.S. 56:6(25)(a), notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that additional oyster resources could be utilized in Calcasieu Lake and hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997-98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake, the daily take limit shall be 15 one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mrs. Karen Foote began the next item, **Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure** by asking Mr. Harry Blanchet to provide background information. She then stated she would follow Mr. Blanchet and speak against the Resolution. Mr. Blanchet stated one of the provisions of the Magnuson Act requires a recreational quota rather than a recreational allocation for red snapper. In August 1997, this new regulation went into effect. Word was received from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) last month to close the red snapper fishery in state waters. The only other time a recreational fishery was closed occurred a few years back with king mackerel. Louisiana has relatively little harvest of red snapper from state waters. Mr. Blanchet stated the states of Alabama, Florida and Texas were not closing their waters, but Mississippi is closing their waters. The data received was based on an accumulation from three different surveys of recreational harvest. The Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution was read by Mr. Blanchet.

Mrs. Karen Foote stated three reasons for not closing the season. These included: an insignificant harvest of red snapper from state waters; the federal closure was based on a recent change in the Magnuson Act and did not provide funding or an adequate data collection system; and the staff feels there are better ways to manage a recreational fishery other than a quota. Commissioner Hanchey asked what did Texas do? Mrs. Foote answered Texas did not close their waters. Commissioner Gisclair asked how many miles does Texas recognize as compared to the other gulf states? Then he stated the quota of 4.47 million pounds was reached recreationally and the National Marine Fisheries Service has to close the season. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the new regulation came from NMFS's last meeting? Mrs. Foote stated early figures showed the quota would not be reached, but then at a meeting in November, Dr. Andy Kemmerer announced they would close the season on November 27. Commissioner Gisclair asked who serves on the Gulf Council from the Department? Mrs. Foote stated she serves for the Department and the closure issue was not up for discussion. Then she stated Dr. Kemmerer requested, by letter, for each state to consider adopting compatible regulations. Commissioner Gattle asked if 95 percent of the red snappers are caught outside the 3-mile limit and what is the total recreational catch of red snapper from the docks? Then he asked if there was the possibility of catching only 5,000 more pounds from state waters during the month of December? Mrs. Foote answered yes. Commissioner Gattle asked what was the current status of red snapper, to which Mrs. Foote stated it was in an

overfished condition. Then Commissioner Gattle asked if there was a red snapper recovery plan in place and if the plan was on track? Mrs. Foote stated there is a plan but it is not on track because of the definition of overfishing being changed. Chairman Babin asked for Enforcement's opinion of keeping one area open when federal waters are closed? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated it would be easier to enforce the closure if the state waters were also closed. Commissioner Gisclair stated the Commission has gone along with other closures to help make enforcement easier. Commissioner Gattle felt charterboat captains would not jeopardize their licenses if they went out and fished red snapper during the closed season. Commissioner Gisclair stated this is a significant issue especially from an enforcement standpoint. Commissioner Gattle stated there is a lot of difference in poundage between commercial and recreational catches. Chairman Babin stated the Commission has always gone along with the Federal regulations and the main key used was Mrs. Foote's reference to red snapper being overfished. He then stated Louisiana's waters should be closed. Commissioner Cormier stated he would try to do what was right and there was no great significance in closing the waters for just three weeks. With it being the holiday season, Commissioner Cormier felt there would not be much fishing going on. Commissioner Gisclair stated the 4.47 million pound quota is part of the recovery plan. Commissioner Gattle stated the Commission should spend its time handling a significant situation that could jeopardize a fishery. He did not agree that the potential 5,000 pounds or the 3 week period of time should be acted upon by the Commission. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Blanchet to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to leave the season as it is and to disregard the Resolution. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Cormier. Chairman Babin restated the motion by Commissioner Hanchey that the red snapper season in state waters would not close. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Gisclair and Chairman Babin.

The next item on the agenda, **1998 Turkey Regulations**, was handled by Mr. Dave Morrison. He stated there was a minor error in the regulations passed at the last Commission Meeting. The Ouachita Parish description in Area B was wrong and the correct description was read by Mr. Morrison. He asked the Commission to approve the correct wording so it could match the turkey pamphlet. A two-thirds vote was needed to suspend the rules in order for action to be taken on this item. Commissioner Cormier made a motion to suspend the rules and add it to the agenda. Commissioner Gisclair seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Then Chairman Babin asked for a motion to change the language for Ouachita Parish. Commissioner Cormier made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gisclair. This motion also passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for November** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of November.

Region I - Minden - 95 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 124 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 180 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 190 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 190 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 95 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 187 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 130 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 201 citations.

SWEP - 30 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 161 citations.

Seafood Investigative Unit - 5 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 65 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of November was 1,392.

The aviation report for November 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 60.3 hours for enforcement and 34.9 hours for other divisions.

Chairman Babin then asked for **Division Reports**. Mr. Phil Bowman stated there would be two reports from the Fur & Refuge Division. Mr. Noel Kinler would handle the nutria project and Mr. Edmond Mouton would brief the Commission on the possibility of establishing a wintering site for the whooping crane.

Mr. Noel Kinler gave a slide presentation on **Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration**. Nutria, a native of South America, were brought into the United States in the 1930's and then into Louisiana by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny in 1937. During a hurricane in 1940, approximately 150 escaped and eventually populated themselves around Avery Island. The ability to control aquatic pest plants by the nutria caused these animals to be moved around the state. The marshes of Maryland is the only other area where nutria are causing habitat damage. During the 1950's, the population of nutria was

estimated to be 20 million and causing damage to agricultural lands, rice fields and sugar cane crops. The population remained unchecked until the 1960's when a fur market was developed for nutria. From 1960 until mid-1980's, the nutria harvest averaged 1 million until a change occurred in the fur industry and the harvest dropped. Over the last 7 or 8 years, the average harvest has been less than 500,000 nutria and this has caused very significant habitat damage in coastal areas. Funding from the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary program allowed for surveys between the Atchafalaya River and the Mississippi River. In 1993, surveys showed there was an estimated 10 to 15,000 acres of habitat damage. The same area was surveyed in 1996 and the damage increased from 15,000 acres to 20,000 acres. Several coastal area slides showed damage caused by nutria. Mr. Kinler explained nutria habitat damage and how it affects the marshes. A series of slides displaying an enclosure nutria could not get into on Salvador WMA and the results were shown. The Louisiana Fur & Alligator Council has always searched for ways to utilize nutria other than the fur market. One such possibility was using nutria meat as a human food source. The National Marine Fisheries Service asked the Department to develop a project that could be submitted to the Coastal Restoration Planning, Protection & Restoration (CWPPRA) Task Force for possible funding. The project included developing a market for human consumption and developing a market for pay incentives to trappers and processors. The Task Force approved the project and provided \$400,000 for the plan thus far. Mr. Kinler explained the three main segments of the project which included developing a market for nutria meat; coastwide herbivory survey; and an incentive payment for trappers and processors. The different agencies involved in the project included the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Health and Human Resources, and Agriculture and Forestry. Two points for the project are to initiate a system to elevate the value of the nutria which will create an incentive for the trappers to go into the marsh to harvest the nutria and then identify the areas of damage by conducting surveys.

Mr. Corky Perret asked what the nutria population is today? Mr. Kinler stated in ideal marsh habitat conditions, the population could be as high as 18 nutria per acre and 9 per acre in brackish marsh conditions. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Kinler if he was from the New Iberia Office? Commissioner Hanchey asked Mr. Kinler if he had ever eaten nutria? Mr. Kinler stated yes and that it was similar to wild rabbit. Commissioner McCall asked if there were other markets for nutria besides human consumption? Mr. Kinler stated they do sell nutria for alligator feed. Then Commissioner McCall asked if there was a possibility of nutria being available for dog and cat food? Mr. Kinler answered there is a potential there. Commissioner Cormier asked about the refrigeration and longevity of the nutria? Mr. Kinler stated with quick vacuum pack and freezing, nutria could be preserved for an extended period of time.

Mr. Edmond Mouton stated Dr. John Cannon would give a slide presentation on the **Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project**. He began stating his project was to identify potential wintering sites for new populations of whooping cranes. Funding for the project comes from government agencies as well as private sources. The whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America standing about 5 feet tall and weighing about 15 pounds. Currently there are 169 wild whooping cranes living in the world. However there have been some introductions of cranes that were breed in captivity. Favorite food of the cranes are crabs, but they will eat mussels and small snails and even a little vegetation. Family groups generally stay together both on the wintering grounds and the nesting grounds. The young birds have cinnamon colored plumage. The study hopefully will find a place to introduce a new population of migratory cranes. The objectives of the project are to develop a site suitable for up to 100 migrating whooping cranes and establishing a migrating route. A detailed site selection criteria has been developed based on the needs of the cranes. Dr. Cannon stated he has talked to people from governmental agencies, state wildlife agencies, private organizations and individual experts on crane biology and habitat. Twenty possible sites have been visited and a report was submitted to the Whooping Crane Recovery Team. Then Dr. Cannon explained the habits of the crane as well as the requirements for a site. The number one criteria for choosing a site is making sure there is local and state support. Five sites were visited in Louisiana and these included Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Rockefeller Refuge, privately owned marshes of the Amoco Corporation, Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary and Marsh Island. Of the twenty sites visited, only two ranked higher than the rest. The first was Louisiana's Marsh Island area and the other is along the Gulf Coast of Florida. Research will continue on the two top sites. Also migration routes and training of the birds will be researched. Several slides were shown on migration training. The goal of the recovery plan is to have two more self-sustaining populations in addition to the wild population. Chairman Babin stated his first experience with the Endangered Species Act was with the whooping crane.

Mr. Mark Schexnayder then gave a **Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1**. At the August 1997 Meeting, the Commission gave the Secretary authority to extend the shrimp season if biological and technical information warranted it. Several requests have been received to extend the season in Zone 1. Samples from Zone 1 showed catch per effort was 4.8 as compared to an average over the past five years of 2.76 and the average size of the shrimp is 80 to 100 count. Mr. Schexnayder stated Lake Pontchartrain samples still had 16 to 20 count and 36 to 40's ranging from some catches of zero to 20 to 120 pounds per day. The Department will continue providing information from samples and interviews with the shrimpers to the Secretary. Chairman Babin asked with the season closing on December 14, does the Secretary have to give a 72 hour

notice? Then Chairman Babin asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. George Barisich thanked the Commission for placing this item on the agenda. He stated there are harvestable sized shrimp in certain areas of Zone 1 and asked for a one month extension to utilize the available product. The request poses no enforcement problem, stated Mr. Barisich. He asked the Commission to pass a resolution requesting the Secretary extend the shrimp season for at least one month.


An unidentified speaker, a commercial fisherman asking for the one month extension, stated he knew there could be two or three major warming spells between December and January whereby the shrimp show up again. He also stated the shrimp are marketable and again asked for the one month extension. Chairman Babin stated he spoke to Mr. Schexnayder last week and asked him to talk with the dealers in the area. He then stated the samples would continue through the next week so the Secretary has all available information and if warranted, the Department will make a recommendation.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **April 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, April 2, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Each December a Commission member's term expires and this year it is Commissioner Gisclair. Chairman Babin stated Commissioner Gisclair has served well for six years and has been a friend of his and the commercial industry. He then expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Gisclair on behalf of the Commission and Louisiana and presented him with a plaque. Commissioner Gisclair stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Commission. He thanked the staff and Department heads noting the help he has received from Enforcement as well as Mrs. Susan Hawkins. Having Mr. Joe Herring and Mr. Corky Perret at the meeting was a nice surprise, stated Commissioner Gisclair. The Commission is charged with protecting the resource and he felt everyone on the Commission has worked toward that goal. There have been some disagreements and some of these have been voiced and sometimes to no avail. One of his disagreements was when a resource was brought back and how it was distributed and who got what part of the resource. Two words from Title 56, "fair and equitable", were not acted upon in some of the issues considered and voted on by both the Commission and the Department's Secretary. Commissioner Gisclair hoped everyone continues working together. He gave himself an "A" for effort, but from the commercial fishing industry he gave himself a "C-". He cited the red snapper issue from this meeting as an example of not being "fair and equitable". He stated this has been a learning experience for him and he has met people he probably never would have met. In closing, Commissioner Gisclair recommended to the

other Commissioners they put per diem and mileage in the budget. He thanked everyone again for the plaque and stated it has been a pleasure. Chairman Babin stated it has been a pleasure to serve with Commissioner Gisclair.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cormier made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 4, 1997

Chairman Daniel Babin presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Norman McCall
Perry Gisclair
Joseph Cormier
Tom Gattle

Deputy Secretary Clyde Kimball was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Babin recognized two former employees of the Department, former Secretary Joe Herring and former Assistant Secretary Corky Perret.

Chairman Babin called for a motion for approval of the **November 6, 1997 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Cormier and seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

MADE
Colonel Winton Vidrine began the **Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year**. The Enforcement Division selects an agent of the year based on the agents performance evaluation, the type of cases ~~they make~~, their professional attitude, and their voluntary training. A total of 10 candidates for this award are nominated each year and ~~then one is chosen for that award~~. The agent is then sent to the Southeastern Association Meeting to be recognized ~~there~~. Col. Vidrine introduced Lt. Jeff Mayne as the Agent of the Year and presented him with a plaque from the Southeastern. Lt. Mayne is the Supervisor of the Special Investigative Unit and was primarily responsible for creating the Unit. His career began in 1986 when he was hired as a student and in 1991 he became a Wildlife Officer. Chairman Babin congratulated Lt. Mayne and requested he keep up the good work.

Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources began with Chairman Babin introducing Dr. Andy Martinolich and Mr. Glade Woods from Mississippi. He then asked Mr. Corky Perret to come forward to begin the discussion. Mr. Perret asked his regards be extended to Secretary Jenkins since he was not at the meeting. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was created approximately 3½ years ago as a spin off of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Providing a brief background, Mr. Perret

stated on March 29, 1994, former Secretary Herring and others met with Mississippi's Commission and Department to discuss issues of mutual concern. One of the problems resolved was an understanding of common boundary lakes. A meeting was held several months back between Mr. Perret, Mr. Woods, Mr. John Roussel, Mr. Mike Landrum, a Mississippi Commissioner and charter boat operators to discuss charter boat fees. House Concurrent Resolution 33 urged Louisiana's Commission to enter into a reciprocal license agreement on saltwater recreational angling. The Mississippi Commission unanimously approved their Department to meet with Louisiana to discuss such regulations. Commissioner Martinolich's motion instructed his staff to see what could currently be done under the regulations and go to the Mississippi Legislature to see if the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources could enter into a true reciprocal license agreement. Current charges for a Mississippi annual saltwater angling license is \$56 for Louisiana fishermen. This charge could be reduced to a minimum of \$20, stated Mr. Perret. If the Mississippi Legislature gave authority to the Mississippi Commission to enter into a true reciprocal license agreement and if Louisiana agreed, then Mississippi would recognize properly licensed Louisiana anglers in their waters and vice versa. Mr. Perret stated there were 588 Louisiana anglers that bought a Mississippi saltwater angling license last year. He concluded stating he would appreciate any consideration to an agreement being reached. *cost of*

Commissioner Gattle asked Mr. Perret to explain the difference between the \$56 fee and the \$30 license fee. Commissioner McCall asked how many Mississippi people fish in Louisiana waters and are charged \$70? Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Janis Landry if she knew the number of people from Mississippi that buy Louisiana licenses? Mrs. Landry stated that information was not available. Chairman Babin stated he would like to see an open dialogue between the two Departments and he wanted to see what action the Mississippi Legislature will take on licenses. Mr. Perret asked Chairman Babin if Louisiana would recognize a Mississippi license if they would recognize a Louisiana license? Chairman Babin answered no, not at this point. Mr. Perret then suggested both states charge \$20 for a saltwater angling license. Chairman Babin then stated it could be considered but he wanted more input from the License Section and the Fisheries staff before making a recommendation. Commissioner McCall asked if there was any way to get information on how many licenses were sold to Mississippi fishermen? Mrs. Landry stated it would be very difficult because they would have to review each parish's licenses sold and see what state the fisherman came from. *Were* Commissioner Gisclair asked if the licenses turned in from each parish was broken down into classification? Then he asked that when the licenses come in from now on that a program be created that would generate this type information. Mrs. Landry stated the staff is not available to do this type of data entry. Chairman Babin stated this issue creates a problem for them as a Commission. He then agreed with Commissioner Gisclair and stated he would like

WAS to know how many licenses are sold. The number of licenses available for sale are too numerous, stated Chairman Babin, and there was a need to look at simplifying them and possibly making more licenses reciprocal with other states. Commissioner Cormier asked where did the information former Undersecretary Fred Prejean provided the Commission that showed the expected amount of revenues from license sales? Mrs. Landry stated they have a total for non-resident licenses sold, but do not have a breakdown for each state. Commissioner Gattle stated this will probably lead to computerized licensing in the future. Chairman Babin asked if Mississippi had point of sale system? Commissioner Gisclair stated he was told the Department did surveys on the socioeconomic impact studies and asked if the answers could be obtained from those surveys? Mr. John Roussel stated Mrs. Landry is correct that the Department does not have specific data on saltwater recreational fishing. He did state there were 33 Mississippians that came to Louisiana and bought other gear licenses to do recreational fishing and 564 Mississippi commercial fishermen that bought a Louisiana license. Mr. Roussel suggested this should be looked at in a comprehensive fashion. Mr. Perret reminded the Commission they only deal with the saltwater license. Chairman Babin stated the Commission will need a lot more information before they would enter into any kind of agreement. He then asked the Department to provide additional information by the February 1998 meeting. Mr. Perret stated he understood the Commission's concerns. He then asked if it would be fair to conclude that the Commission was interested in working with Mississippi on a possible reciprocal license agreement and maybe others later on. Mr. Perret then stated the staff from Mississippi will be glad to work with representatives from Louisiana. Mr. Roussel added there were 28,000 non-resident fishing licenses sold in the 1996-97 year. Mr. Perret concluded Mississippi sold 12,500 non-resident licenses in one year. Mr. Woods provided a saltwater guide pamphlet for the Commission's information. Mr. Ron Couvillion stated his office will put more information together so the Commission could be better informed.

Chairman Babin stated he requested the next item, **Discussion of Charterboat License Fees**, be placed on the agenda so he could better understand some of the license fees. He asked Mrs. Landry to explain what is required of a non-resident ~~that~~ ^{who} comes to Louisiana to fish on a charterboat. Mrs. Landry stated the fisherman could purchase either a season license, trip license or a charter trip ticket. Most people are buying the charter trip ticket because of its low cost (\$2.50). Chairman Babin asked if the Department could check to make sure the fishermen are buying the trip tickets like they should? Commissioner Gattle asked if the charterboat captain was required to keep track of who licenses are sold to and then asked how often are the books turned into the Department? Chairman Babin explained since charterboats are not required to record their catch, there was no way of knowing if the number of tickets sold matches the trips the charterboats have. Then he asked how much money was generated from the ticket? Also

he asked if the number of tickets sold means federal dollars for this Department? Mrs. Landry stated yes. Commissioner McCall asked if the number of licenses are going down? She stated the number of trip licenses sold did go down due to the availability of charterboat tickets. Commissioner Gisclair asked how much would a non-resident pay if he stopped at Wal-Mart to buy a license to fish on a charterboat? Mrs. Landry stated it would cost \$43. Then Commissioner Gisclair stated he has heard complaints from non-residents who are legal and the charterboat captain says I could have sold you a license for \$2.50. He also felt not all charterboat captains were offering the license in their packets and there was too much disparity between the \$2.50 license and the \$43 license. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the fee was per day to which Mrs. Landry answered it was \$2.50 per trip. He then asked how do the captains date the licenses and thought the Department had no control over the licenses while the charterboat captains are on the water. Chairman Babin stated the charterboat industry has blossomed over the last 5 or 6 years and the fishing was getting better in Louisiana. He stated there was a need for more regulations and to close some of the cracks in licensing and how catches are recorded. Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Landry to provide more information on this by the February 1998 meeting. Commissioner Gattle asked what was the theory behind the \$2.50 license and how long has it been in effect? The license went into effect in 1995 because of a legislative act, stated Mrs. Landry. Commissioner Cormier asked if a charter trip could be considered starting at sunrise on Friday morning and going until Monday morning. Mrs. Landry stated the timeframe was not specified. Then Commissioner Cormier assumed the legislative intent was not to be for various days or for overnight. Specifics should be included such as stating that one trip should be no longer than 12 hours. Mr. Roussel explained how the charterboat license bill came into being. Commissioner McCall stated one area of concern he had was allowing a fisherman that did not catch his limit on the morning trip to go out that afternoon for only \$2.50. Mr. Roussel reminded the Commission this \$2.50 license only applies to non-residents and does not include residents. Commissioner Cormier asked if there would be any reason why a charterboat captain would not have any licenses, such as it being a weekend or holiday and the Department was closed? Chairman Babin stated this must be a nightmare for Enforcement and there was a need to clean up this Act during the next legislative session.

A Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent on Importation of White-Tailed Deer was handled by Mr. Fred Kimmel. During the September 1997 Meeting, the Commission issued a ban on importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana. The two reasons for this action were explained by Mr. Kimmel. Most of the issues have been resolved and the packet to be considered today would allow for importation with some restrictions. These restrictions included requiring a permit before importation occurs, prohibiting importation from 10 states based on health concerns, providing

proof of negative testing for tuberculosis and brucellosis, and prohibiting the importation of white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any unlicensed enclosures. Mr. Kimmel stated this Declaration of Emergency will supplant the previous emergency rule on importation. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry has supported the provisions in this Declaration of Emergency except for the restriction on importing from certain states.

Commissioner Gattle asked if the permit for importation would be issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the veterinary certificate would be available to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries upon request? Mr. Kimmel explained the procedure to be followed for importing deer and the required veterinary certificate. Commissioner Cormier asked how could a veterinarian certificate be certified true from the point of origin. Dr. Maxwell Lea with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry explained health certificates are issued by a licensed USDA accredited veterinarians. The information on the certificate is verified by the State where it is written and the original certificate accompanies the animals while transported. Mr. Fred Kimmel read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Cormier. Chairman Babin then opened the discussion for public comments.

Mr. Pinckney Wood, Coalition of Louisiana Animal Advocates, began reminding the Commissioners he sent them 10 pages of information he obtained on this issue. The law, as it was originally written, was specifically for the importation of exotic deer and antelope for the use of raising them as livestock and not for hunting. Mr. Wood stated he spoke with a representative from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and she explained the enforcement problem they are having. He then read a statement from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission which has banned any private ownership of these type animals. The imminent peril proclaimed in the Department of Agriculture's Declaration of Emergency was to prohibit the importation of diseased animals, stated Mr. Wood. He then went on to say this type situation should not be present that could possibly allow for illegal activities. He then stated his organization as well as the humane community was opposed to this type hunting. Mr. Wood asked to meet with a representative from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries so he could share some of the knowledge he has gained over the past several months on this subject. Chairman Babin stated the Legislature has mandated the Commission and Department to develop these regulations and they were trying to address some of the concerns. He then directed Mr. Wood to speak with Mr. Johnnie Tarver. Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Wood if he knew who the author of the bill was and then stated that was the person he needed to contact.

Hearing no further comments, the Resolution passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and
- WHEREAS,** these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and
- WHEREAS,** there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS,** unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and genetic alteration, and
- WHEREAS,** unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of

recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will be filed to make these regulations effective beyond the 120 days allowed under the provisions of a Declaration of Emergency.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to regulate the importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana past the January 1, 1998 expiration of the current Declaration of Emergency which bans importation of white-tailed deer. Permanent rules regulating importation have been developed. These new rules and this Declaration of Emergency will allow regulated importation of white-tailed deer in a manner which will allow monitoring and tracking of imports and will minimize threats of disease introduction into Louisiana. This Declaration of Emergency will provide for regulated importation until the permanent rule is adopted.

This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to importation of white-tailed deer that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

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Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until 4:30 p. m., February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mr. Fred Kimmel also handled the Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent for Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope. A Declaration of Emergency acted upon at the October 1997 Meeting set the seasons for farm raised white-tailed deer and exotics. The new Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent addresses some additional issues such as definitions, seasons, methods of take, shooting hours, bag limits, hunting permits, and tagging of each deer. This Declaration of Emergency will supplant the previous emergency rule. Commissioner Gattle asked about shotguns and using a shoulder rest. Then he asked how did the 150 acres and 2500 acres figures come about? Mr.

Don Puckett stated Senator Cain requested there be a minimum size on the pens, but he did not know where those figures came from. Mr. Kimmel read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Resolution. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution, Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will begin the formal rulemaking processes to implement this Declaration of Emergency as a permanent rule.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under Authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Section 7, LSA 36:601 et seq., 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to allow for the hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics in the absence of permanent rules. A Declaration of Emergency was adopted on October 2, 1997 but will expire before the permanent rule can take effect. This Declaration of Emergency will provide continuous regulation of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic hunting until the ratification of permanent rules.

This Declaration of Emergency will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is

introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997-January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.

2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and

Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997 - January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.

2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department

of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

The next item, Declaration of Emergency to Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove was handled by Mr. Ron Dugas. Two requests from Legislators from the Cameron and Calcasieu area were asking the Commission to increase the daily take limit from 10 sacks to 15 sacks. The staff has no problem with the increase from a resource standpoint with there being an abundant supply, stated Mr. Dugas. Chairman Babin asked if there was any down size risk? Mr. Dugas stated some people fear an increase in the daily take will decrease the price per sack. A

similar request has been made to the Commission for the past six years. Commissioner McCall stated he has been approached by fishermen that want it left alone and one buyer that wants the increase. All agree that the oysters from the area are becoming too large and having problems selling them. Commissioner McCall then recommended increasing the daily take limit to 15 sacks, try to cull some of the larger oysters and not extend the season as has been requested in the past. Chairman Babin asked what action did the Commission take over the last six years? Mr. Dugas explained the problem with the larger oysters and with the possibility of health closures, the resource needed to be utilized. Commissioner McCall made a motion to increase the daily take to 15 sacks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gattle and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER DAILY TAKE LIMIT

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Grounds have been surveyed and samples indicate that there is a significant harvestable oyster resource on the public grounds, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) allows the Commission to set daily take limits, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997/98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake, the daily take limit shall be fifteen (15) one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967 and under the authority of R.S. 56:6(25)(a), notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that additional oyster resources could be utilized in Calcasieu Lake and hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997-98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake, the daily take limit shall be 15 one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mrs. Karen Foote began the next item, **Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure** by asking Mr. Harry Blanchet to provide background information. She then stated she would follow Mr. Blanchet and speak against the Resolution. Mr. Blanchet stated one of the provisions of the Magnuson Act requires a recreational quota rather than a recreational allocation for red snapper. In August 1997, this new regulation went into effect. Word was received from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) last month to close the red snapper fishery in state waters. The only other time a recreational fishery was closed occurred a few years back with king mackerel. Louisiana has relatively little harvest of red snapper from state waters. Mr. Blanchet stated the states of Alabama, Florida and Texas were not closing their waters, but Mississippi is closing their waters. The data received was based on an accumulation from three different surveys of recreational harvest. The Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution was read by Mr. Blanchet.

Mrs. Karen Foote stated three reasons for not closing the season. These included: an insignificant harvest of red snapper from state waters; the federal closure was based on a recent change in the Magnuson Act and did not provide funding or an adequate data collection system; and the staff feels there are better ways to manage a recreational fishery other than a quota. Commissioner Hanchey asked what did Texas do? Mrs. Foote answered Texas did not close their waters. Commissioner Gisclair asked how many miles does Texas recognize as compared to the other gulf states? Then he stated the quota of 4.47 million pounds was reached recreationally and the National Marine Fisheries Service has to close the season. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the new regulation came from NMFS's last meeting? Mrs. Foote stated early figures showed the quota would not be reached, but then at a meeting in November, Dr. Andy Kemmerer announced they would close the season on November 27. Commissioner Gisclair asked who serves on the Gulf Council from the Department? Mrs. Foote stated she serves for the Department and the closure issue was not up for discussion. Then she stated Dr. Kemmerer requested, by letter, for each state to consider adopting compatible regulations. Commissioner Gattle asked if 95 percent of the red snappers are caught outside the 3-mile limit and what is the total recreational catch of red snapper from the docks? Then he asked if there was the possibility of catching only 5,000 more pounds from state waters during the month of December? Mrs. Foote answered yes. Commissioner Gattle asked what was the current status of red snapper, to which Mrs. Foote stated it was in an

overfished condition. Then Commissioner Gattle asked if there was a red snapper recovery plan in place and if the plan was on track? Mrs. Foote stated there is a plan but it is not on track because of the definition of overfishing being changed. Chairman Babin asked for Enforcement's opinion of keeping one area open when federal waters are closed? Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated it would be easier to enforce the closure if the state waters were also closed. Commissioner Gisclair stated the Commission has gone along with other closures to help make enforcement easier. Commissioner Gattle felt charterboat captains would not jeopardize their licenses if they went out and fished red snapper during the closed season. Commissioner Gisclair stated this is a significant issue especially from an enforcement standpoint. Commissioner Gattle stated there is a lot of difference in poundage between commercial and recreational catches. Chairman Babin stated the Commission has always gone along with the Federal regulations and the main key used was Mrs. Foote's reference to red snapper being overfished. He then stated Louisiana's waters should be closed. Commissioner Cormier stated he would try to do what was right and there was no great significance in closing the waters for just three weeks. With it being the holiday season, Commissioner Cormier felt there would not be much fishing going on. Commissioner Gisclair stated the 4.47 million pound quota is part of the recovery plan. Commissioner Gattle stated the Commission should spend its time handling a significant situation that could jeopardize a fishery. He did not agree that the potential 5,000 pounds or the 3 week period of time should be acted upon by the Commission. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Blanchet to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to leave the season as it is and to disregard the Resolution. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Cormier. Chairman Babin restated the motion by Commissioner Hanchey that the red snapper season in state waters would not close. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioner Gisclair and Chairman Babin.

The next item on the agenda, **1998 Turkey Regulations**, was handled by Mr. Dave Morrison. He stated there was a minor error in the regulations passed at the last Commission Meeting. The Ouachita Parish description in Area B was wrong and the correct description was read by Mr. Morrison. He asked the Commission to approve the correct wording so it could match the turkey pamphlet. A two-thirds vote was needed to suspend the rules in order for action to be taken on this item. Commissioner Cormier made a motion to suspend the rules and add it to the agenda. Commissioner Gisclair seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Then Chairman Babin asked for a motion to change the language for Ouachita Parish. Commissioner Cormier made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gisclair. This motion also passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for November** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of November.

Region I - Minden - 95 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 124 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 180 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 190 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 190 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 95 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 187 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 130 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 201 citations.

SWEP - 30 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 161 citations.

Seafood Investigative Unit - 5 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 65 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of November was 1,392.

The aviation report for November 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 60.3 hours for enforcement and 34.9 hours for other divisions.

Chairman Babin then asked for **Division Reports**. Mr. Phil Bowman stated there would be two reports from the Fur & Refuge Division. Mr. Noel Kinler would handle the nutria project and Mr. Edmond Mouton would brief the Commission on the possibility of establishing a wintering site for the whooping crane.

Mr. Noel Kinler gave a slide presentation on **Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration**. Nutria, a native of South America, were brought into the United States in the 1930's and then into Louisiana by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny in 1937. During a hurricane in 1940, approximately 150 escaped and eventually populated themselves around Avery Island. The ability to control aquatic pest plants by the nutria caused these animals to be moved around the state. The marshes of Maryland is the only other area where nutria are causing habitat damage. During the 1950's, the population of nutria was

estimated to be 20 million and causing damage to agricultural lands, rice fields and sugar cane crops. The population remained unchecked until the 1960's when a fur market was developed for nutria. From 1960 until mid-1980's, the nutria harvest averaged 1 million until a change occurred in the fur industry ~~when the~~ ^{AND} harvest dropped. Over the last 7 or 8 years, the average harvest ~~has been less than 500,000 nutria and~~ ^{THIS} has caused very significant habitat damage in coastal areas. Funding from the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary program allowed for surveys between the Atchafalaya River and the Mississippi River. In 1993, surveys showed there was an estimated 10 to 15,000 acres of habitat damage. The same area was surveyed in 1996 and the damage increased from 15,000 acres to 20,000 acres. Several coastal area slides showed damage caused by nutria. Mr. Kinler explained nutria habitat damage and how it affects the marshes. A series of slides displaying an enclosure nutria could not get into on Salvador WMA and the results were shown. The Louisiana Fur & Alligator Council has always searched for ways to utilize nutria other than the fur market. One such possibility was using nutria meat as a human food source. The National Marine Fisheries Service asked the Department to develop a project that could be submitted to the Coastal Restoration Planning, Protection & Restoration (CWPPRA) Task Force for possible funding. The project included ~~developing a market for~~ ^{developing A} human consumption and ~~develop the markets for~~ pay incentives to trappers and processors. The Task Force approved the project and provided \$400,000 for the plan thus far. Mr. Kinler explained the three main segments of the project which included ~~developing a~~ market for nutria meat; coastwide herbivory survey; and an incentive payment for trappers and processors. The different agencies involved in the project included the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Health and Human Resources, and Agriculture and Forestry. Two points for the project are to initiate a system to elevate the value of the nutria which will create an incentive for the trappers to go into the marsh to harvest the nutria and then identify the areas of damage by conducting surveys.

Mr. Corky Perret asked what the nutria population is today? Mr. Kinler stated in ideal marsh habitat conditions, the population could be as high as 18 nutria per acre and 9 per acre in brackish marsh conditions. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Kinler if he was from the New Iberia Office? Commissioner Hanchey asked Mr. Kinler if he had ever eaten nutria? Mr. Kinler stated yes and that it was similar to wild rabbit. Commissioner McCall asked if there were other markets for nutria besides human consumption? Mr. Kinler stated they do sell nutria for alligator feed. Then Commissioner McCall asked if there was a possibility of nutria being available for dog and cat food? Mr. Kinler answered there is a potential there. Commissioner Cormier asked about the refrigeration and longevity of the nutria? Mr. Kinler stated with quick vacuum pack and freezing, nutria could be preserved for an extended period of time.

Mr. Edmond Mouton stated Dr. John Cannon would give a slide presentation on the **Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project**. He began stating his project was to identify potential wintering sites for new populations of whooping crane. Funding for the project comes from government agencies as well as private sources. The whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America standing about 5 feet tall and weighing about 15 pounds. Currently there are 169 wild whooping cranes living in the world. However there have been some introductions of cranes that were breed in captivity. Favorite food of the cranes are crabs, but they will eat mussels and small snails and even little vegetation. Family groups generally stay together both on the wintering grounds and the nesting grounds. The young birds have cinnamon colored plumage. The study hopefully will find a place to introduce a new population of migratory cranes. The objectives of the project is to develop a site suitable for up to 100 migrating whooping cranes and establishing a migrating route. A detailed site selection criteria has been developed based on the needs of the cranes. Dr. Cannon stated he has talked to people from governmental agencies, state wildlife agencies, private organizations and individual experts on crane biology and habitat. Twenty possible sites have been visited and a report was submitted to the Whooping Crane Recovery Team. Then Dr. Cannon explained the habits of the crane as well as the requirements for a site. The number one criteria for choosing a site is making sure there is local and state support. Five sites were visited in Louisiana and these included Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Rockefeller Refuge, privately owned marshes of the Amoco Corporation, Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary and Marsh Island. Of the twenty sites visited, only two ranked higher than the rest. The first was Louisiana's Marsh Island area and the other is along the Gulf Coast of Florida. Research will continue on the two top sites. Also migration routes and training of the birds will be researched. Several slides were shown on migration training. The goal of the recovery plan is to have two more self-sustaining populations in addition to the wild population. Chairman Babin stated his first experience with the Endangered Species Act was with the whooping crane. ARE

Mr. Mark Schexnayder then gave a **Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1**. At the August 1997 Meeting, the Commission gave the Secretary authority to extend the shrimp season if biological and technical information warranted it. Several requests have been received to extend the season in Zone 1. Samples from Zone 1 showed catch per effort was 4.8 as compared to an average over the past five years of 2.76 and the average size of the shrimp is 80 to 100 count. Mr. Schexnayder stated Lake Pontchartrain samples still had 16 to 20 count and 36 to 40's ranging from some catches of zero to 20 to 120 pounds per day. The Department will continue providing information from samples and interviews with the shrimpers to the Secretary. Chairman Babin asked with the season closing on December 14, does the Secretary have to give a 72 hour

notice? Then Chairman Babin asked if there were any public comments.

Mr. George Barisich thanked the Commission for placing this item on the agenda. He stated there is harvestable sized shrimp in certain areas of Zone 1 and asked for a one month extension to utilize the available product. The request poses no enforcement problem, stated Mr. Barisich. He asked the Commission to make a resolution requesting the Secretary extend the shrimp season for at least one month. APR

An unidentified speaker, a commercial fisherman asking for the one month extension, stated he knew there could be two or three major warming spells between December and January whereby the shrimp show up again. He also stated the shrimp are marketable and again asked for the one month extension. Chairman Babin stated he spoke to Mr. Schexnayder last week and asked him to talk with the dealers in the area. He then stated the samples would continue through the next week so the Secretary has all available information and if warranted, the Department will make a recommendation. PASS

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **April 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, April 2, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Each December a Commission member's term expires and this year it is Commissioner Gisclair. Chairman Babin stated Commissioner Gisclair has served well for six years and has been a friend of his and the commercial industry. He then expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Gisclair on behalf of the Commission and Louisiana and presented him with a plaque. Commissioner Gisclair stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Commission. He thanked the staff and Department heads noting the help he has received from Enforcement as well as Mrs. Susan Hawkins. Having Mr. Joe Herring and Mr. Corky Perret at the meeting was a nice surprise, stated Commissioner Gisclair. The Commission is charged with protecting the resource and he felt everyone on the Commission has worked towards that goal. There have been some disagreements and some of these have been voiced and sometimes to no avail. One of his disagreements was when a resource was brought back and how it was distributed and who got what part of the resource. Two words from Title 56, "fair and equitable", were not acted upon in some of the issues considered and voted on by both the Commission and the Department's Secretary. Commissioner Gisclair hoped everyone continues working together. He gave himself an "A" for effort, but from the commercial fishing industry he gave himself a "C-". He cited the red snapper issue from this meeting as an example of not being "fair and equitable". He stated this has been a learning experience for him and he has met people he probably never would have met. In closing, Commissioner Gisclair recommended to the

other Commissioners they put per diem and mileage in the budget. He thanked everyone again for the plaque and stated it has been a pleasure. Chairman Babin stated it has been a pleasure to serve with Commissioner Gisclair.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cormier made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

FINE POINTS/OUTDOORS

Skid Mark 66, Flowmaster 57.
Farm Bureau 54, Just Plain Nasty 49.
BUMC Bulls 70, Keith's Import Auto Repair 65.

Division 9
Scrubs 66, Sonics 56.
Week Nite Warriors 63, Shell Lakers 46.
Bombers 58, Specialist 43.

SWIMMING

U.S. Open results

INDIANAPOLIS — Results Thursday in the U.S. Open Swimming Championships at the Indiana University Natatorium. (all race distances in meters)

Women

50 freestyle—1. Martina Moravcova, Slovakia, :25.89 seconds. 2. Amy VanDyken, Englewood, Colo., :26.09. 3. Barbara Bedford, Etna, N.H., :26.22. 4. Lacey Boutwell, Noblesville, Ind., :26.24. 5. Cortnee Adams, Appleton, Wis., :26.32. 6. Nicole deMan, Walnut Creek, Calif., :26.39. 7. Laura Nicholls, Canada, :26.54. 8. Kelly Bennett, Gillette, Wyo., :26.58.

100 breaststroke—1. Kristine Quance, Northridge, Calif., 1:10.56. 2. Jessica Wagner, Naperville, Ill., 1:11.26. 3. Kristin MacGregor, Chicago, 1:11.37. 4. Katie McClelland, Duncanville, Texas, 1:11.50. 5. Stephanie Jenkins, Hampton, Va., 1:11.62. 6. Jenna Street, Jacksonville, Fla., 1:12.12. 7. Kelly Jones, Beavercreek, Ohio, 1:12.26. 8. Caitlin Anderson, Charlottesville, Va., 1:14.04.

200 backstroke—1. Barbara Bedford, Etna, N.H., 2:14.59. 2. Beth Botsford, Baltimore, 2:15.15. 3. Nikki Dryden, Canada, 2:15.60. 4. Misty Hyman, Phoenix, 2:16.39. 5. Kelly Stefanyshyn, Canada, 2:17.49. 6. Shelly Ripple, Baton Rouge, La., 2:17.89. 7. Lauren Sinnott, Reston, Va., 2:18.94. 7. Jamie Reid, Puyallup, Wash., 2:19.91.

200 individual medley—1. Martina Moravcova, Slovakia, 2:15.95. 2. Kristine Quance, Northridge, Calif., 2:16.01. 3. Natalie Coughlin, Vallejo, Calif., 2:17.35. 4. Marianne Limpert, Canada, 2:18.00. 5. Maddy Crippen, Philadelphia, 2:18.53. 6. Kristin MacGregor, Chicago, 2:20.27. 7. Carly Geer, La Canada, Calif., 2:20.96. 8. Britany White, Baltimore, 2:22.24.

400 freestyle—1. Brooke Bennett, Plant City, Fla., 4:14.87. 2. Ashley Whitney, Jacksonville, Fla., 4:15.25. 3. Diana Munz, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, 4:15.48. 4. Lindsay Benko, Elkhart, Ind., 4:16.88. 5. Ginny Johnson, Roanoke, Va., 4:19.03. 6. Kim Black, Syracuse, N.Y., 4:19.22. 7. Jessica Foschi, Old Brookville, N.Y., 4:19.64. 8. Katie Zimbone, Needham, Mass., 4:21.40.

800 relay—1. SMU "A" (Rania Elwani, Naoko Imoto, Katie McClelland, Martina Moravcova), 8:17.64. 2. Bolles Sharks, 8:18.10. 3. USC, 8:24.82. 4. SMU "B", 8:28.31. 5. BSC Blue Wave, 8:30.17. 6. Bolles Sharks, 8:37.10. 7. Terrapins, 8:37.28. 8. Silver Dolphins, 8:38.42.

Men

50 freestyle—1. Rimundas Mazutolis, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., :22.91. 2. Francisco Sanchez, Venezuela, :23.15. 3. Yannick Lupien, Canada, :23.19. 4. Bill Pilczuk, Cape May Point, N.J., :23.21. 5. Michael Picotte, San Diego, :23.27. 6. Gustavo Borges, Brazil, :23.29. 7. Felipe Delgado, Ecuador, :23.62. 8. Craig Hutchison, Tempe, Ariz., :23.70.

100 breaststroke—1. Patrick Fowler, Bellevue, Wash., 1:03.60. 2. Kurt Grote, San Diego, 1:03.77. 3. Morgan Knabe, Canada, 1:03.79. 4. Vilmos Kovacs, Hungary, 1:04.19. 5. Michael Hessler, Germany, 1:04.63. 6. Tom Wilkens, Middleton, N.J., 1:04.98. 7. Andrew Chan, Canada, 1:05.26. 8. Barry Wynn, Spartanburg, S.C., 1:06.00.

200 backstroke—1. Lenny Krayzelburg, Studio City, Calif., 1:59.20. 2. Brad Bridgewater, Lake Mary, Fla., 2:01.81. 3. Greg Hamm, Canada, 2:03.26. 4. Dan Shevchik, Wilton, Conn., 2:03.29. 5. Marko Strahita, Columbus, Ohio, 2:04.31. 6. Markus Babin, Great

LWFC rejects request by NMFS to close season on red snapper

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

For the first time since the National Marine Fisheries Service imposed bans on catching fish in federal waters, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission refused to carry the ban into state waters.

The LWFC turned aside a request by the NMFS to close the season on red snapper for recreational fishermen by a 4-2 vote at its monthly meeting Thursday.

For the first time in history, the service closed the recreational red snapper season on Thanksgiving Day, a day when the service indicated that Gulf of Mexico recreational fishermen had reached their annual quota of 4.77 million pounds for the year.

The service's ban expires Dec. 31, and recreational fishermen start on their 1998 quota on Jan. 1. Red snapper are one of several Gulf of Mexico species the service has determined as being overfished.

Commission member Tom Gattle led the opposition, citing state fisheries biological figures that estimated recreational fishermen could take as much as 5,000 pounds by Dec. 31 in state waters. Gattle said he believed the commission didn't have to take action on such a small amount for such a short period of time.

LWFC chairman Dan Babin said he didn't understand how four members would take such a first-time position on an NMFS closure.

"It's hard to believe that we would take this kind of action on an overfished species. We heard from the Enforcement Division (Lt. Col. Charlie Clark) that it would be almost impossible for us to enforce the federal ban when the catch would be allowed in state waters.

"We know it's impossible to patrol the waters to keep recreational fishermen and charter boats from catching red snapper in federal

OTHER LWFC ACTIONS

- An overture from former state assistant Wildlife and Fisheries secretary William "Corky" Perret about coming to terms with the State of Mississippi over a reciprocal agreement for non-resident saltwater fishing license fees. Perret is serving as the director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.
- A discussion of state charter boat license fees and a call for proposed toughening of regulations covering the \$2.50 non-resident charter boat trip fee regulations.
- The naming of Lt. Jeff Mayne of Baton Rouge as the recipient of the Outstanding Louisiana Enforcement Agent of the Year.
- New regulations implementing the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' multi-million dollar initiative for trappers and meal processors to provide a market for nutria. The plan would reward trappers with \$1 for each animal and meal processors 75 cents per pound for nutria that can be used

for human consumption.

- Expanding the daily take of oysters from Calcasieu Lake and West Cove from 10 sacks to 15 sacks for the remainder of the season.
- Learning that the state's South Marsh Island is one of two finalists for a pilot whooping crane restocking project. The other site is on the west coast of Florida.
- Hearing a report on continued catch of marketable sized shrimp in the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne.
- Learning that the Enforcement Division wrote 1,392 citations in November, the bulk of them for hunting violations.
- Setting the April, 1998 meeting for April 2 at Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters on Quail Drive.
- And, honoring out-going commission member Perry Gisclair of Golden Meadow. Gisclair's six-year term ended with Thursday's meeting.

waters," Babin said.

Babin and Perry Gisclair, who represent commercial fishing interests on the commission, cast the two dissenting votes.

The LWFC also approved two Declarations of Emergency and Notices of Intent concerning the newly implemented high-fence hunting operations for whitetail deer and exotic animals.

The first item covered importation of non-native whitetail deer and outlined the permitting and regulatory procedures in the program. It carries requirements that deer imported from other states be certified free of tuberculosis and brucellosis, two fatal diseases not found in Louisiana whitetail deer herds.

The regulations also prohibited shipments of deer from California, Colorado, Michigan and Wyoming because of viruses those deer carry, and from seven New England states where Lyme Disease is rampant in deer herds.

"While it's theoretical about the spread of Lyme Disease in Louisiana — we had only eight cases last year — we have mice, deer and ticks here in the state. That's a combination the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta have identified as necessary for Lyme Disease and the risk of importing deer from those New England states outweighs the benefits," said state wildlife biologist Fred Kimmel.

The other declaration/notice carried regulations concerning hunting

farm-raised whitetails and exotic animals like elk, antelope and other deer. It limited high-fence hunting of farm-raised whitetails through Jan. 31, 1998 and made it a year-round season on the exotic animals. It also established a \$50 permit fee for these hunts.

Both programs are under the auspices of the state Department of Agriculture.

The only objection on these two items came from statewide humane treatment for animals leader Pinckney Wood.

"As the law the Department of Agriculture is using was originally written, it specifically called for exotic deer and antelope for slaughter for meat," Wood said.

"There was never an indication that the animals would be hunted. It's created a situation where hunting these animals is being allowed on enclosed property on a consumptive basis."

Wood cited instances in Montana and Wyoming which led those states to banning what he called "canned" hunts and the importation of non-native animals. He said Montana had problems with non-native sheep breaking from pens and mixing with native big-horn sheep herds. He said Wyoming banned the program because citizens objected to private ownership of what they considered to be wild animals.

Both items passed 6-0. Only commissioner Glynn Carver of Many was absent from the meeting.

Power play for De La Hoya, Rivera

By The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Oscar De La Hoya and Wilfredo Rivera, graduates of the Pernell Whitaker school of finesse, get to play the

PRO BOXING

said. "He has speed, I have speed. He's tall, I'm tall (about 5-foot-11).

head."

Marquez (28-0, 20 knockouts) was a 7-5 favorite over Campas (68-2, 58 knockouts). All but 16 of Campas' fights have been in Mexico against opponents who are mostly unknown

RESOLUTION

RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON CLOSURE

- WHEREAS, the red snapper resource in the Gulf of Mexico is primarily managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and
- WHEREAS, the most recent stock assessment for Gulf of Mexico red snapper indicates that the stock is in an overfished condition and that restrictions on harvest are necessary to rebuild the stock, and
- WHEREAS, the 1997 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and
- WHEREAS, the best information available indicates that the recreational sector had harvested their quota by November 27, 1997, and
- WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has reduced the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper in or from Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico to zero, effective November 27, 1997, thus closing the red snapper recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and
- WHEREAS, NMFS has requested that the state of Louisiana close the recreational fishery in state waters during the federal closure, and
- WHEREAS, the recreational season for red snapper harvest in Federal waters will reopen at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 1998, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.49:953(B) and R.S.49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the season for the recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, 1997 through 12:01 a.m., January 1, 1998, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective with this closure, no person may take or possess red snapper in or from Louisiana state waters, regardless of where the red snapper were harvested, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing herein shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this declaration of emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency closing the 1997 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S.49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S.49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective 12:01 a.m., December 6, 1997 the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close and remain closed until 12:01 a.m., January 1, 1998. Effective with this closure, no person may possess red snapper in or taken from Louisiana state waters, regardless of where the red snapper were harvested. Nothing shall prohibit the possession of a recreational limit off the water of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

The Department has been notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the gulfwide recreational red snapper quota was projected to have been reached on November 27, 1997.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
December 4, 1997
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 1997
- ✓3. Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year - Winton Vidrine
- ✓4. Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources - Danny Babin
- ✓5. Discussion of Charterboat License Fees - Danny Babin
- ✓6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Importation of White-Tailed Deer - Fred Kimmel
- ✓7. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope - Fred Kimmel
- ✓8. Declaration of Emergency - Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove - Ron Dugas
- ✓9. Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure - John Roussel
- ✓10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November - Winton Vidrine
11. Division Reports
 - ✓a. Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration - Noel Kinler
 - ✓b. Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project - Edmond Mouton
 - ✓c. Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1 - Mark Schexnayder
- ✓12. Set April 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjourn

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, December 4, 1997
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Daniel Babin (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Perry Gisclair	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Tom Gattle	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Glynn Carver	<u> </u>	<u>✓</u>
Joseph Cormier	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.

~~Secretary Jenkins~~ is also present.

Deputy Secretary Kimball

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Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRUNEAU

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to enter into a reciprocal agreement with Mississippi on saltwater recreational fishing.

WHEREAS, under present law, R.S. 56:671-677, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may enter into reciprocal agreements with other states, including Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, such reciprocal agreements may include agreements pertaining to fishing licenses and seasons, creel limits, and all other rules and regulations on the taking or protection of any species of fish or other aquatic life in any bodies of water which form the common boundary between Louisiana and the reciprocating state, and in any area within the boundaries of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas; and

WHEREAS, saltwater recreational fishing is enjoyed in common boundary waters and certain lakes, bays, bayous, ship channels, and other areas of Louisiana and Mississippi by numerous persons from both states; and

WHEREAS, valid licenses and other permits required by Louisiana for saltwater recreational fishing should be recognized and accepted on the Mississippi portions of such areas; and

WHEREAS, valid licenses and other permits required by Mississippi for saltwater recreational fishing should be recognized and accepted on the Louisiana portions of such areas; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, on behalf of the state of Louisiana, should enter into a reciprocal agreement with the appropriate Mississippi agencies or departments, on behalf of the state of Mississippi, to provide recognition of valid licenses and other permits required for saltwater recreational fishing in Louisiana and Mississippi.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, on behalf of the state of Louisiana, to enter into a reciprocal agreement with Mississippi recognizing valid licenses and other permits required for saltwater recreational fishing in the common boundary waters and other waters of Mississippi and Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

NON-RESIDENT FEE COMPARISON

December 1, 1997

STATE	NR Fish Season	NR Salt Season	NR Fish Trip	NR Salt Trip	NR Hunt Season	NR Hunt Trip	NR Bow	NR Mid Game B	NR Muzzle	NR All Game Seas	NR All Game Trip	NR Duck Stamp	NR Turkey	NR Turkey Stamp
ALABAMA	La Res \$31.00	La Res \$67.00	La Res \$26.00	La Res \$26.00	\$42.00	7-day \$27.00				\$202.00	7-day \$77.00	\$6.00 Res/NR		
ARKANSAS	\$30.00		3-day \$10.00 7-day \$15.00 14-day \$20.00		\$75.00	5-day \$50.00				\$195.00	5-day \$125.00 3-day \$95.00	\$12.00/permit		
FLORIDA	\$31.50	\$30.00	7-day \$16.50	7-day \$15.00			\$5.00	\$5.00		\$151.50	10-day \$26.50	\$3.00 Res/NR		\$5.00
MISSISSIPPI	\$28.00	\$28.00	3-day \$8.00	3-day \$5.00	\$78.00	5-day \$33.00	\$33.00			\$228.00 age 19+ \$113.00 age 16-18	5 day \$63.00 age 16-18 \$108.00 age 19+	\$6.00 Res/NR		
TEXAS	\$30.00	\$7.00	5-day \$20.00	7.00 stamp	\$100.00	5day \$35.00	\$7.00		\$10.00	\$250.00 bow excluded		\$7.00	\$100.00	\$5.00
LOUISIANA	\$31.00	\$36.00	3day \$20.00 +\$3.00 stamp	3day \$20.00	\$86.00	5day \$51.00	\$25.50	3day \$45.50	\$25.50	\$160.50	5day \$95.50	\$13.50		\$10.50
GEORGIA	\$24.00		1 day \$3.50 7 day \$7.00		\$59.00	1day \$5.50 7day \$25.00	\$25.00			\$118.00		\$5.50		

NON-RESIDENT FEE COMPARISON

December 1, 1997

STATE	NR Fish Season	NR Salt Season	NR Fish Trip	NR Salt Trip	NR Hunt Season	NR Hunt Trip	NR Bow	NR Mfg Game B	NR Muzzle	NR All Game Season	NR All Game Trip	NR Duck Stamp	NR Turkey	NR Turkey Stamp
ALABAMA	La Res \$31.00	La Res \$67.00	La Res \$26.00	La Res \$26.00		7-day \$27.00				\$202.00	7-day \$77.00	\$6.00 Res/NR		
ARKANSAS	\$30.00		3-day \$10.00 7-day \$15.00 14-day \$20.00		\$75.00	5-day \$50.00				\$195.00	5-day \$125.00 3-day \$95.00	\$12.00 permit		
FLORIDA	\$31.50	\$30.00	7-day \$16.50	7-day \$15.00			\$5.00	\$5.00	\$151.50	10-day \$26.50	\$3.00 Res/NR			\$5.00
MISSISSIPPI	\$28.00	\$28.00	3-day \$8.00	3-day \$5.00	\$78.00	5-day \$33.00	\$33.00			\$228.00 age 19+ \$113.00 age 16-18	5 day \$63.00 age 16-18 \$108.00 age 19+	\$6.00 Res/NR		
TEXAS	\$30.00	\$7.00	5-day \$20.00	\$7.00 stamp	\$100.00	5day \$35.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$230.00 bow excluded			\$7.00	\$100.00	\$5.00
LOUISIANA	\$31.00	\$36.00	3day \$20.00 +\$3.00 stamp	3day \$20.00	\$96.00	5day \$51.00	\$25.50	\$25.50	\$160.50	5day \$95.50	\$13.50			\$10.50
GEORGIA	\$24.00		1 day \$3.50 7 day \$7.00		\$59.00	1day \$5.50 7day \$25.00	\$25.00		\$118.00		\$5.50			

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4 , 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA., December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and


WHEREAS, unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and genetic alteration, and

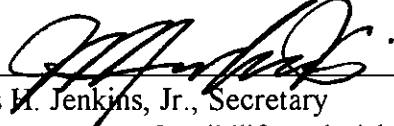
WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will be filed to make these regulations effective beyond the 120 days allowed under the provisions of a Declaration of Emergency.


Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
LA Wildlife and Fisheries Commission


James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to regulate the importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana past the January 1, 1998 expiration of the current Declaration of Emergency which bans importation of white-tailed deer. Permanent rules regulating importation have been developed. These new rules and this Declaration of Emergency will allow regulated importation of white-tailed deer in a manner which will allow monitoring and tracking of imports and will minimize threats of disease introduction into Louisiana. This Declaration of Emergency will provide for regulated importation until the permanent rule is adopted.

This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to importation of white-tailed deer that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in

Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any

white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until 4:30 p. m., February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4 , 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA., December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer raised for commercial purposes, and,

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries maintains authority to regulate white-tailed deer in exhibits, game parks, zoos, and wild white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, there is increased interest in raising and importing white-tailed deer into Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, unregulated importation of white-tailed deer poses a threat to Louisiana's wild white-tailed deer in the form of illegal exploitation, disease introduction and genetic alteration, and

WHEREAS, unregulated and undocumented importation of white-tailed deer also poses a threat to human health, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are charged with the protection and management of Louisiana's wild deer which provide over 3.7 million days of recreation and over \$284,000,000 in economic benefits to Louisiana's citizens annually, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency regulating importation of white-tailed deer, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will be filed to make these regulations effective beyond the 120 days allowed under the provisions of a Declaration of Emergency.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
LA Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to regulate the importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana past the January 1, 1998 expiration of the current Declaration of Emergency which bans importation of white-tailed deer. Permanent rules regulating importation have been developed. These new rules and this Declaration of Emergency will allow regulated importation of white-tailed deer in a manner which will allow monitoring and tracking of imports and will minimize threats of disease introduction into Louisiana. This Declaration of Emergency will provide for regulated importation until the permanent rule is adopted.

This rule will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to importation of white-tailed deer that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in

Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing importation of white-tailed deer into Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 1. Wild Quadrupeds

§117. White-tailed Deer Importation

A. Definitions

White-tailed deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus.

B. Permits. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, white-tailed deer into the State of Louisiana without first notifying the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and obtaining a current permit number. The permit number shall be included on the certificate of veterinary inspection and shall accompany the shipment of white-tailed deer. The permit number and certificate of veterinary inspection shall be made available to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel upon request.

C. Import Restrictions

1. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer from the States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Wyoming. This shall include any

white-tailed deer that have been confined within these states, or have been in direct contact with deer of any species from these states, within 180 days of entry into Louisiana.

2. No person shall import or cause to be imported any white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for Tuberculosis in accordance with the Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules, as published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

3. No person shall import or cause to be imported white-tailed deer without written proof of a negative test for brucellosis in accordance with the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules once published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Until such time as the Brucellosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules are published, all white-tailed deer six months of age and older entering Louisiana shall be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry into Louisiana, and written proof thereof shall be provided, unless the white-tailed deer originate from a herd which has been officially declared a certified brucellosis free herd by the state of origin.

4. No person shall import, or cause to be imported, any white-tailed deer for release into the wild or into any enclosure not specifically licensed for the possession of white-tailed deer.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 56:6(10), (13) and (15), 56:20 and 56:171 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until 4:30 p. m., February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4 , 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

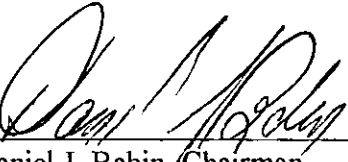
WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

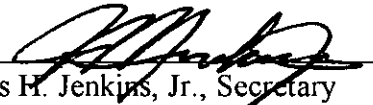
WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will begin the formal rulemaking processes to implement this Declaration of Emergency as a permanent rule.



Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
LA Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under Authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Section 7, LSA 36:601 et seq., 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to allow for the hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics in the absence of permanent rules. A Declaration of Emergency was adopted on October 2, 1997 but will expire before the permanent rule can take effect. This Declaration of Emergency will provide continuous regulation of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic hunting until the ratification of permanent rules.

This Declaration of Emergency will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of

the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997-January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using

black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including saboted bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.
2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with

a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current

Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997 - January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.
2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 4 , 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, December 4, 1997.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has been given certain authority to regulate farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, raised for commercial purposes, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) has developed rules pertaining to farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

WHEREAS, these rules will allow for the raising, propagation, and hunting of imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, and farm-raised white-tailed deer within the confines of pens specified by LDAF rules and regulations and approved by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the authority to establish hunting seasons has been vested with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission exclusively, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the attached Declaration of Emergency to establish hunting seasons and regulations for farm-raised white-tailed deer, elk, exotic deer and antelope, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached Notice of Intent will begin the formal rulemaking processes to implement this Declaration of Emergency as a permanent rule.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
LA Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under Authority of LSA Const. Art. IX, Section 7, LSA 36:601 et seq., 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule. A Declaration of Emergency is necessary to allow for the hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics in the absence of permanent rules. A Declaration of Emergency was adopted on October 2, 1997 but will expire before the permanent rule can take effect. This Declaration of Emergency will provide continuous regulation of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic hunting until the ratification of permanent rules.

This Declaration of Emergency will supplant any prior Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission pertaining to hunting of farm-raised deer and exotics that is in effect on the effective date of this Declaration of Emergency.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of

the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997-January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using

black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including saboted bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.
2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with

a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

Daniel Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to promulgate rules governing hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotic deer and antelope.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Seasons

§109. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer and Exotics

A. Definitions

Exotics: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the family Bovidae, except the Tribe Bovini (cattle), or Cervidae which is not indigenous to Louisiana and which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Exotics shall include, but are not limited to, fallow deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, and black buck antelope.

Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: For purposes of this rule means any animal of the species Odocoileus virginianus which is introduced and kept within an enclosure of not less than 150 acres nor greater than 2500 acres to be hunted, provided that a current

Farm-Raising License has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for the enclosure, with the concurrence of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

B. Hunting Seasons

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: October 1, 1997 - January 31, 1998, either sex.

2. Exotics: January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1998.

3. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be taken with longbow (including compound bow) and arrow; shotguns not larger than a 10 gauge fired from the shoulder without a rest, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; handguns and rifles no smaller than 22 caliber centerfire; or muzzleloading rifles or pistols, 44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which must load exclusively from the muzzle or cap and ball cylinder, using black powder or an approved substitute only, and using ball or bullet projectile, including sabot bullets only.

4. The use of dogs to take farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotics is prohibited.

5. A Farm-Raising licensee may kill farm-raised white-tailed deer within the enclosure for which he is licensed at anytime during daylight hours after proper notice is given as required by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry Alternative Livestock Rules.

C. Shooting Hours. Farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics may be hunted one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

D. Bag Limit

1. Farm-Raised White-tailed Deer: No limit.
2. Exotics: No limit.

E. Hunting Permit. No person shall take or attempt to take any farm-raised white-tailed deer or exotic without possessing a Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit issued by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. An administrative fee of \$50.00 shall be assessed for each Farm-Raised Deer and Exotic Hunting Permit. Permits are valid only on the deer farm indicated on the face of the permit. Permits shall be issued on a fiscal year basis beginning July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of the following calendar year.

F. Tagging. Each farm raised white-tailed deer or exotic shall be tagged in the left ear or left antler immediately upon being killed and before being moved from the site of the kill with a tag provided by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The tag shall remain with the carcass at all times. All other deer tagging and identification requirements provided for in Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules shall also apply.

G. Additional Restrictions. Except as otherwise specified herein, all of the provisions of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's rules pertaining to the hunting and possession of white-tailed deer shall apply to farm-raised white-tailed deer and exotics.

Authority Note: Promulgated in accordance with LSA Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7; LSA 36:601, 56:115, 56:171 et seq. and 56:651 et seq.

Historical Note: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70898-9000, until 4:30 p.m. February 2, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

RESOLUTION

CALCASIEU LAKE OYSTER DAILY TAKE LIMIT

WHEREAS, the oyster resources on the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Grounds have been surveyed and samples indicate that there is a significant harvestable oyster resource on the public grounds and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6 (25) (a) allows the Commission to set daily take limits, now

BE IT RESOLVED, that effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997/98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake, the daily take limit shall be fifteen (15), one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.



Daniel Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Wildlife & Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 967 and under the authority of R.S. 56:6(25) (a) notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission finds that additional oyster resources could be utilized in Calcasieu Lake and hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

That effective December 4, 1997 and for the remainder of the 1997/98 oyster season in Calcasieu Lake the daily take limit shall be fifteen (15), one and one-half bushel sacks per boat per day.

**Daniel Babin, Chairman
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission**

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Daniel Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Wildlife & Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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**Daniel Babin, Chairman
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission**



DANIEL T. "DAN" FLAVIN
District 36

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 24, 1997

4320 Lake Street
P.O. Box 6027
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70606
Telephone: (318) 477-1334
Fax: (318) 477-1336

Commerce
Natural Resources
Retirement

Mr. Glynn Carver, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, La. 70898-9000

Via Fax (504) 765-0948

Re: Item for Consideration at Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting
Increase in Sack Limit of Oysters from 10 to 15 Sacks in Calcasieu Lake and West
Cove

Dear Mr. Carver:

Please accept this letter as my request for the above mentioned item to be added to the agenda for the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting on December 4, 1997. It is my understanding that the resources are available and that the increase to 15 sacks will be beneficial to the oyster industry.

Any consideration you give to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Flavin".

Dan Flavin

DF/gg

cc: Mr. Jimmy Jenkins, Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries



*Senate
State of Louisiana*

GERALD J. THEUNISSEN

State Senator
District 25
Post Office Box 287
Jennings, LA 70546
318/824-0376

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture
Education

November 24, 1997

Mr. Glynn Carver, Chairman
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 9800
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Re: Item for Consideration at Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting
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Any consideration you give to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "GJT", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

Gerald J. Theunissen
State Senator
District 25

GJT/jd

cc: Mr. Jimmy Jenkins, Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries



Senate
State of Louisiana

GERALD J. THEUNISSEN

State Senator
District 25
Post Office Box 287
Jennings, LA 70546
318/824-0376

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture
Education

November 24, 1997

Mr. Glynn Carver, Chairman
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 9800
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Re: Item for Consideration at Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Meeting
Increase in Sack Limit of Oysters from 10 to 15 sacks in Calcasieu Lake
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Any consideration you give to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Theunissen", written over a large, stylized loop.

Gerald J. Theunissen
State Senator
District 25

GJT/jd

cc: Mr. Jimmy Jenkins, Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries



Senate
State of Louisiana

P.O. Box 91154

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

FAX 504-388-0000

DATE: NOV. 24-97TELEFAX: 504-765-0948ATTENTION: SwanNO. OF PAGES: 2

INCLUDING THIS PAGE

FROM: SENATOR GERALD J. THEUNISSEN
POST OFFICE BOX 287
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA 70546

FAX # 318-824-4780

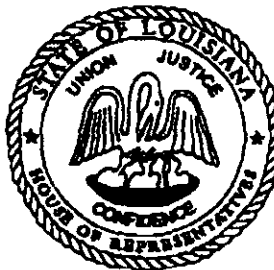
Phone: 318-824-0376

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS: JACQUELINE DAIGLE & JOHNNY FRUGE

MESSAGE: Hard copy to follow

IF THIS TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (318)824-0376. THANK YOU, AND HAVE
A NICE DAY.

The Louisiana House of Representatives



The following document is from:

REPRESENTATIVE DAN FLAVIN

Date: 11/24 Time: _____
Sent by: Ginger Gomez
Number of pages including cover: 2

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT

_____ AT 477-1334 . Thank you!

Remarks:

To: Susan (504) 765-0948

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Ron Dugas

Fax #: 504-568-2048

Subject: Request from Rep. Flavin

Date: November 24, 1997

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The attached request from Rep. Flavin has been approved by Chairman Babin to be on the December 4, 1997 Commission Agenda.

Thank you.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

RESOLUTION

RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON CLOSURE

- WHEREAS, the red snapper resource in the Gulf of Mexico is primarily managed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and
- WHEREAS, the most recent stock assessment for Gulf of Mexico red snapper indicates that the stock is in an overfished condition and that restrictions on harvest are necessary to rebuild the stock, and
- WHEREAS, the 1997 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and
- WHEREAS, the best information available indicates that the recreational sector had harvested their quota by November 27, 1997, and
- WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has reduced the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper in or from Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico to zero, effective November 27, 1997, thus closing the red snapper recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, and
- WHEREAS, NMFS has requested that the state of Louisiana close the recreational fishery in state waters during the federal closure, and
- WHEREAS, the recreational season for red snapper harvest in Federal waters will reopen at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 1998, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.49:953(B) and R.S.49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and
- WHEREAS, R.S.56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish,
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the season for the recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters effective 12:01 a.m. December 6, 1997 through 12:01 a.m., January 1, 1998, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that effective with this closure, no person may take or possess red snapper in or from Louisiana state waters, regardless of where the red snapper were harvested, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing herein shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this declaration of emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency closing the 1997 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S.49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S.49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective 12:01 a.m., December 6, 1997 the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close and remain closed until 12:01 a.m., January 1, 1998. Effective with this closure, no person may possess red snapper in or taken from Louisiana state waters, regardless of where the red snapper were harvested. Nothing shall prohibit the possession of a recreational limit off the water of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

The Department has been notified by the National Marine Fisheries Service that the gulfwide recreational red snapper quota was projected to have been reached on November 27, 1997.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

NOV 13 1997

F/SEO23:RS

Mr. James Jenkins, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

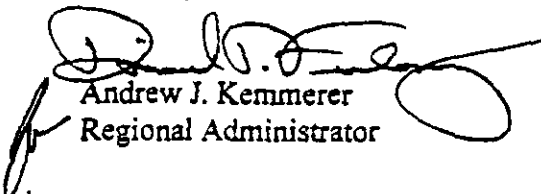
Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The recreational fishery for red snapper will close in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico starting 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997. Preliminary red snapper landings estimates indicate that the 4.47-million-pound annual recreational quota for red snapper will have been reached by then. NMFS is required to close the red snapper recreational fishery of the Gulf of Mexico when its quota is reached, or is projected to be reached.

Effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997, through midnight, December 31, 1997, the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper in or from Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are zero. In addition, in the Gulf of Mexico on board a vessel for which a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued, the bag and possession limits for red snapper are zero, without regard to where the red snapper were harvested.

We request that Louisiana close the recreational fishery in state waters during the Federal closure period.

Sincerely Yours,



Andrew J. Kemmerer
Regional Administrator

cc: K. Foote, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
F/SF - Matlock
F/SEC - Brown
GCSE - McLemore





News Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service • Southeast Regional Office • 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

RECREATIONAL FISHERY FOR RED SNAPPER IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS TO CLOSE STARTING NOVEMBER 27, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 1997

NR97-39

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Sadler

(813) 570-5305

FAX (813) 570-5583

The recreational fishery for red snapper will be closed in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico starting 12:01 a.m., November 27, 1997, through midnight, December 31, 1997, announced Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (all times are local time).

Preliminary red snapper landings estimates indicate that the 4.47-million-pound annual recreational quota for red snapper will have been reached by then. NMFS is required to close the red snapper recreational fishery of the Gulf of Mexico when its quota is reached, or is projected to be reached.

Effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997, through December 31, 1997, the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper in or from Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are zero. In addition, in the Gulf of Mexico on board a vessel

for which a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued, the bag and possession limits for red snapper are zero without regard to where the red snapper were harvested. NMFS will request all Gulf states to close the recreational fishery in state waters during the Federal closure period.

Fisheries violations may be reported during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time), to NMFS Southeast Regional Office Law Enforcement Division at 813-570-5344, or after hours by calling the hotline at 1-800-853-1964.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>. The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Blanchet, Harry

From: NOAA Constituent Affairs [SMTP:constaff@hoviis.rdc.noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 1997 2:48 PM
To: Blanchet, Harry
Subject: Gulf Recreational Fishermen Reach Red Snapper Quota

TO: Harry Blanchet
LA Wildlife and Fisheries
9,1-504-765-2489

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Smith (813) 570-5301

Chris.Smith@noaa.gov

Robert Sadler (813) 570-5305

NOAA 97-R168

11/14/97

GULF RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN REACH RED SNAPPER QUOTA;

RECREATIONAL FISHERY CLOSES ON NOV. 27

According to landing estimates, the 1997 recreational quota of 4.47 million pounds of red snapper caught in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico will have been reached by Nov. 26. The Gulf recreational fishery will close for 34 days starting 12:01 a.m. local time, Nov. 27, through midnight, Dec. 31, the National Marine Fisheries Service announced today.

"Current red snapper landing estimates indicate that the annual recreational quota for red snapper will have been reached by Nov. 26, and our agency is required to close the Gulf's recreational fishery," said Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, regional administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southeast Region. "The brief closure is necessary to comply with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act."

Therefore, effective 12:01 a.m. local time, Nov. 27 through midnight, Dec. 31, 1997, the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper throughout federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico will be zero. In addition, the red snapper bag and possession limits will be zero aboard commercial vessels that possess permits for landing Gulf reef fish, regardless of where the red snapper were harvested. NMFS has also requested that all Gulf states close the recreational fishery in state waters and prohibit sale of red snapper from state waters during the federal closure period.

Violations may be reported to the agency's Law Enforcement Division at 813-570-5344, during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., EDT), or any time by calling the Fisheries Enforcement hotline at 1-800-853-1964. NMFS is the fisheries management agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This and other news releases are available on the NMFS Southeast Region homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/> and on NOAA's Internet homepage at <http://www.noaa.gov/public-affairs>.



BOB JAMES, JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
64 NORTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

JAMES D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

BOB MACRORY
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

November 20, 1997

Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, Jr.
National Marine Fisheries Service
9721 Executive Center Drive
St. Petersburg FL 33702

Dear Dr. Kemmerer,

The State of Alabama has received your request for closure of state waters to coincide with the closure of federal waters to the recreational harvest of red snapper November 27, 1997. After review by the biological staff of our Marine Resources Division, it is their recommendation that our waters remain open. We believe this closure is not the best way to manage a recreational fishery. We believe in strict bag and size limits and have in the past been very supportive of management measures recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service. However, we believe the disruption caused by the closure during the holiday season does not justify the small reduction in the harvest of red snapper.

We understand this closure was mandated by Congress in its passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. However, we are concerned about the data used to project the catch and subsequent closure. The following information illustrates the range associated with the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey data only:

Assuming a normal distribution the 95% confidence limits on the average weight of red snapper for waves 1-4 are 2.99 to 6.45 pounds. This translates into a harvest range of 1,823,326 to 3,933,261 pounds for MRFSS only. A fishery of this economic magnitude deserves more timely and accurate data.

Because of these considerations, the State of Alabama will not close its territorial waters during the federal closure.

Sincerely Yours,

James D. Martin
Commissioner



FOB JAMES, JR.
GOVERNOR

JAMES D. MARTIN
COMMISSIONER

BOB MACRORY
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE DRAWER 458
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA 36547
TEL: (334) 968-7576
FAX: (334) 968-7307
E-MAIL: amrdgs@gulftel.com

R. VERNON MINTON, DIRECTOR
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

The National Marine Fisheries Service announced that the recreational harvest of red snapper will close 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997 through 12:00 midnight, December 31, 1997. The Service had requested that each of the Gulf States close their territorial waters in conjunction with the federal closure. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced today that it has reviewed the request for closure of state waters and based on recommendations by the biological staff of the Marine Resources Division, the waters will remain open.

R. Vernon Minton, Director of the Marine Resources Division, stated "We believe this closure is not the best way to manage a recreational fishery. We believe in strict bag and size limits for management of recreational fisheries. In the past the Department has been very supportive of management measures implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service. However, we believe the disruption caused by the closure during the holiday season does not justify the small reduction in the recreational harvest of red snapper."

The closure was mandated by Congress in its passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act. However, the Department is very concerned about the data used to project the catch and the subsequent closure. The small sample size and the large variability associated with the data creates a wide range of possible quotas.



NEWS

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744 • FAX 512-389-4450

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 1997

News Contact: Steve Lightfoot (512) 389-4701

TEXAS BALKS AT CLOSING WATERS TO RED SNAPPER SPORTFISHING

AUSTIN — Beginning Nov. 27, recreational anglers will not be allowed to harvest red snapper in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico due to a mandatory closure announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In protest of what state officials claim is an unnecessary reduction of angler opportunity, harvest of red snapper in Texas waters (out to nine nautical miles offshore), although a rarity, will be allowed to continue.

"Texas has the most conservative fishing regulations on red snapper of any state along the Gulf," said Dr. Larry McKinney, senior director for aquatic resources with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "We do not allow an intensive commercial fishery in state waters and therefore do not consider it equitable to overly restrict our sport anglers."

The red snapper closure in federal waters is the first ever for this popular species and implementation was required under federal law established through changes made by Congress last year to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Preliminary landing estimates of red snapper in the Gulf indicated anglers had reached the 4.47-million-pound annual recreational quota established by the NMFS. The NMFS has requested all coastal states implement the same restriction in state waters. The closure will remain in effect until Jan. 1, 1998.

"The department does not support closing state waters to match the Federal closure," said McKinney, "because it is the wrong way to manage a recreational fishery."

The variance in restrictions could cause confusion among anglers and for federal law enforcement efforts, stated Hal Osburn, coastal fisheries policy director with TPWD, who added, "It's important to highlight the need to keep management of these fisheries within the control of the states and the regional councils."

Osburn said Texas anglers account for one-third of the recreational red snapper landings in the Gulf annually. This popular fish provides considerable angling opportunity for small charters and large headboats, as well as for small, private boats. "Headboat fishing in Federal waters account for most of the red snapper harvested," said Osburn. "The disruption in fishing trips planned around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays does not justify the relatively small reduction in red snapper harvest."

Although a standard practice for managing most commercial fisheries, quotas are ill-suited for recreational fisheries management, according to TPWD marine biologists. "The recreational fishery is better managed through changes in size and bag limits, which spread angler harvest throughout the year," said Osburn. "The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, in concert with the Gulf states, has effectively used that approach for many years."

Osburn said the red snapper fishery is on the rebound but still suffers from extensive by-catch by Gulf shrimpers. "The most important conservation measure needed to protect red snapper stocks is the implementation of a by-catch reduction device on Gulf shrimp trawlers, which catch and kill tens of millions of juvenile red snapper each year," he offered.

Implementation of a by-catch reduction device requirement is anticipated in the spring of 1998, but Osburn says that's too late for red snapper anglers during the upcoming holidays.

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HCI's Outdoors forum

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Snapper management troubled

Management of the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico has become a Gordian knot of epic convolute. And unless someone or some group finds the right sword with which to cut a knot 13 years in the tying, things almost certainly will grow even more vexatious.

It's already considerably vexing for offshore anglers who were planning snapper expeditions over the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

This past week, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced the first-ever closure of the recreational red snapper fishery.

As of 12:01 a.m. Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day, ironically), it will be illegal for anglers fishing in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico to retain any red snapper. The closure will continue through the end of the year.

And if some scenarios possible under current strategies come to pass, "we could look back at a one-month closure as 'the good old days,'" Hal Osburn, a Texas fisheries manager, worries.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials are so convinced the recreational closure is the wrong move that they are refusing a federal request to close red snapper fishing in state water (out to 9 nautical miles).

"The department does not support closing state waters to match the federal closure because it is the wrong way to manage a recreational fishery," said Larry McKinney, TPWD's senior director for aquatic resources.

Reasons behind the unprecedented prohibition on catching and keeping the most popular offshore fish in the Gulf and the defiant reaction of Texas' fisheries managers to that closure offer some insight into just how twisted and complex the effort to manage snapper has become.

Red snapper in federal waters are managed under a plan whose original version became law in 1984. That "reef fish management plan," devised by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (a collection of state fisheries officials and members from commercial and recreational interests) and

implemented by NMFS, was aimed at addressing a precipitous decline in red snapper populations.

Red snapper populations were going through the floor in the early 1980s. Commercials and recreational were under very little regulation, and they pillaged the fish.

In 1980, recreational anglers in the Gulf of Mexico landed about 12 million pounds of snapper, according to federal estimates.

By 1984, that estimate had dropped to 1.5 million pounds. And anglers continued under no minimum length limits or bag limits.

The management plan aimed to reverse that trend by setting a population target goal and a target date for getting there. The first target date for "recovery" of the snapper fishery was 2000. It since has been moved several times. Today, the target date for recovery of the snapper fishery (defined as "20 percent spawning stock biomass per recruit," a figure even the scientists have a difficult time explaining) sits at 2019.

To get there, managers would use a combination of restrictions on commercial and recreational anglers and address the toll shrimp trawls were taking on juvenile snapper.

That loss of young snapper to shrimp trawls, estimated at 4-12 million fish per year, was and is, scientists assert, the biggest factor limiting recovery of the snapper fishery.

A federal law, the Magnuson Fisheries Management Act, gave the Gulf Council and NFMS (a branch of the Department of Commerce) authority to impose regulations in federal waters. Using the Magnuson Act, managers cut recreational bag limits, imposed size restrictions and set annual limits on the total pounds of snapper both commercials and recreational could take.

And they began trying to devise a way to stem the slaughter and waste of juvenile snapper by shrimp trawls.

But politics crept into the game. Every special interest in the game -- recreational anglers, commercial fishers and adjunct businesses such as fish dealers and shrimpers -- began trying to influence who took the hardest hits.

In 1990, shrimping interests got a law through Congress that prohibited any move to require use of by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) on trawls for four years.

The only thing managers could do was further restrict

commercial and recreational take. Which they did.

In 1984, a recreational angler in the Gulf of Mexico could take unlimited numbers of snapper with no size limit. Today, the daily limit is five snapper with a 15-inch minimum length requirement.

Commercial fishers were limited to an annual quota, and the season closed when they reached it. Overall recreational take was limited to an "allocation," a pound total controlled by bag and size limits.

Fast forward to 1996, when the Magnuson Act was reauthorized by Congress, this time as the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

At the last minute, an amendment was added to the law that changed the annual recreational "allotment" to a "quota" and mandated the recreational red snapper fishery be closed when estimates showed that quota had been caught.

With that mandate from Congress, NMFS had no choice but to order the recreational closure when its estimates showed the 4.47-million-pound recreational quota would be reached by Nov. 26.

So exactly what is the current status of the red snapper fishery?

That's debatable.

"The latest stock assessments show that (the Gulf-wide red snapper fishery) continues to be severely overfished," said Rod Dalton, an NMFS fisheries administrator.

But even the way the stocks are assessed is under scrutiny. The currently-used stock assessment methodology has been undergoing peer review (mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act), and a report on that review is overdue but expected before the end of the year.

There is considerable evidence that the snapper fishery is slowly responding to the conservative regulations over the past decade.

"We've seen some very nice increases in recruitment for the past four years in a row," said Hal Osburn, policy director for TPWD's coastal fisheries division and the agency's representative on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. "That's heartening."

There is a "great deal" of argument over the recovery rate, and

disagreement over which scientific model used to gauge that rate should be used, he said.

But, Osburn said, under any management plan or gauge of recovery, it will be impossible to reach the 2019 target date for full recovery of the fishery unless something is done to stem the loss of juvenile snapper to shrimp trawls.

"If we'd have implemented BRDs in the early 1990s, we wouldn't have the problems we have today," he said. "The long delay in addressing the by-catch issue is the reason we're at this crisis."

Without mandatory use of BRDs, commercial and recreational red snapper fishing could be prohibited completely for the next 20-plus years, and the red snapper fishery still would not recover to the plan's goals.

But that particular problem finally might be addressed. More than a decade after shrimp trawls were fingered as the single most important factor limiting recovery of red snapper, a regulation mandating use of BRDs on offshore shrimp trawls has been adopted and approved by NMFS. Mandatory use of BRDs on offshore trawls could become effective as early as the first of the year, NMFS' Dalton said.

But that may not save recreational red snapper fishing from even more draconian regulations, Osburn said. If, for whatever reasons, use of BRDs doesn't cut loss of juvenile snapper and federal regulators decide to try accelerating recovery of red snapper, as some have suggested, things could get ugly.

One tact to be considered by some in the Gulf Council (which recommends regulations to NMFS for implementation) would involve cutting the current 9.1-million-pound annual red snapper quota (split between commercial and recreation fisheries) to 3.6 million pounds.

"If that happens, you're talking about some serious, serious cuts in what already are very restrictive recreational limits," Osburn said.

NMFS' Dalton concurs.

"There may be even more conservative approaches (to snapper management) mandated," he said. "It could be that there will be more tightening of belts."

For Texas, a state that accounts for a third of the recreational red snapper landings on the Gulf Coast and supports a considerable and important charter and headboat fleet, the

stakes in this deal are high.

"Red snapper are the most important offshore fishery we've got," Osburn said. "The states and the Gulf Council should be the ones making the decisions, using the best available science and understanding that people are a part of this fishery, too."

Whether the current confused, complex and compromised system used to attempt managing the red snapper fishery can be pared into something more sensible remains an open question. Until a very sharp fillet knife is applied to the knotty problem, it certainly won't get better.

Shannon Tompkins covers the outdoors for the Chronicle. His column appears on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

STATUS OF THE RED SNAPPER IN U.S. WATERS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO:

UPDATED THROUGH 1996

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and
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October 6, 1997

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides updates of the commercial and recreational catches of red snapper in U.S. waters as well as updates in the estimates of fishing mortality associated with these catches. Projections of the possible future condition of the stock area made, given each of several alternative management actions. Assumptions made for each of the future projections was a natural mortality schedule ($M = 0.5$ for age 0, $M=0.3$ for age 1, and $M=0.1$ for ages 2 and older) and that future recruitment would be computed from a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment curve. Projections of the possible future condition of the stock were made for a total of 28 management scenarios, given variations in bycatch reduction, minimum size, and TAC.

Recent upward trends in the estimated relative year-class strength from 1993 to 1995 would seem to indicate that management actions, first put in place in 1990, may be having a positive effect and that the red snapper stock may be showing signs of the beginning of a recovery.

Simulations indicate that the present management scenario (TAC of 9.12 million, bycatch reduction of 44%) will not achieve the goal of a 20% SPR in the year 2019. Further analysis under the model assumptions noted indicates that for this goal to be achieved, either TAC need be lowered to approximately 6 million pounds (with a reduction in bycatch of 44%), or bycatch need be reduced by approximately 55% (with a TAC of 9.12 million pounds). To achieve a goal of 30% SPR in the year 2019, bycatch must be reduced by approximately 65%, with little regard to a TAC for the directed fishery. The simulated possible future levels of SPR were much more sensitive to differences in bycatch mortality than to differences in levels of TAC.

DATA UPDATES

Trends in Recruitment

Fall Groundfish Survey. The NMFS Pascagoula, MS, Laboratory had conducted a bottom trawl survey in the northern Gulf of Mexico in the fall of each year since 1972. This program has become known as the "Fall Groundfish Survey" and is described in some detail by Nichols and Pellegrin (1992). This survey is conducted primarily with 40-foot bottom trawls in October and November. The early years of the survey were primarily conducted in the north central Gulf but the survey was later expanded, primarily westward, to include samples off the Texas coast. In order to maintain a consistent time series, the samples selected for inclusion were from the primary survey area that includes depths of 5 to 50 fathoms between 88° and 91°30'W. For each set, the number of snapper caught, their total weight and trawl duration are known. This information provides an index of numerical abundance (i.e., the number captured per tow-hour). It also provides information on the mean size of the red snapper that are caught (total weight/total number). Summaries of the Fall Groundfish Survey where either calculated in the same manner as described in Goodyear (1995) or taken directly from Goodyear (1997).

The Fall Groundfish Survey estimates of red snapper abundance (CPUE) from the primary survey area is given in Figure 1 and Table 1. These data reflect the abundance of red snapper of both age 0 and age 1. Weightings were based on tow duration, mean weight of the fish are given in grams.

Summer SEAMAP Survey. The SEAMAP program had been coordinating trawl samples in the Gulf of

Mexico during June and July since 1982. The data are maintained at the NMFS Pascagoula, MS, Laboratory and were provided by Pascagoula Laboratory staff for the analyses in this report. These samples are taken with the same gear used in the NMFS Fall Groundfish Survey, but even when restricted to the 5 to 50 fathom depth interval, they cover a much larger area. Summaries of the Summer SEAMAP Survey where either calculated in the same manner as described in Goodyear (1995) or taken directly from Goodyear (1997) are given in Tables 2-4.

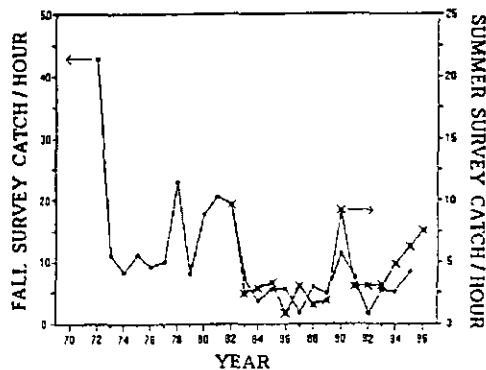


Figure 1. Red snapper catch-per-hour towed in the Fall Groundfish and Summer SEAMAP surveys.

The overall estimate of year class strength of red snapper at age 1 based on the abundance and mean weights of red snapper in the Fall Groundfish Survey and the summer SEAMAP samples are given in Figure 2 and Table 4.

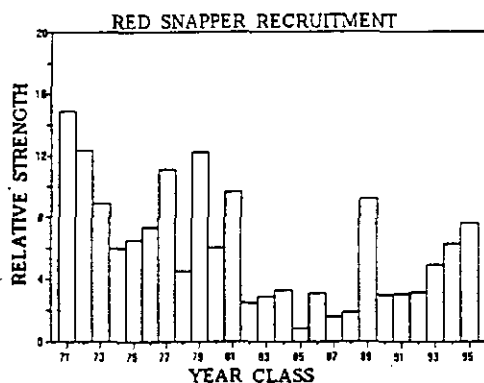


Figure 2. Trend in red snapper year-class strengths based on the resource survey data.

Trends in Catch-per-Unit Effort

Recreational Fishery. Trends in catch-per-unit effort (CPUE) were used as indices of abundance for the red snapper stock. Data supplied by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS) were combined with survey data from Texas Parks and Wildlife to estimate private boat CPUE. These two sources of data were chosen because they enabled us to consider those fish that were released as well as those harvested. Only trips that caught red snapper were considered in the analysis. CPUE was estimated by the following equation:

$$CPUE = (ncaught / (nhours * nanglers)) * c$$

where *ncaught* is equal to the total number of red snapper caught, *nhours* is equal to the number of hours in the trip, *nanglers* is the number of anglers contributing to *ncaught*, and *c* is a scaling constant equal to 4. A General Linear Model (GLM) procedure was used to test for and remove significant effects on the annual mean due to differences between variables associated with time and location of the sampling.

Significant ($p < 0.0001$) effects on the private boat CPUE were found for year, month, and hours fished. CPUE for the recreational/private mode has the pattern shown in Figure 3.

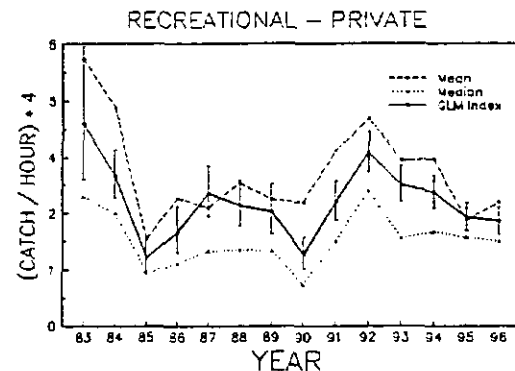


Figure 3. Mean, median, and GLM index of private boat CPUE for trips catching red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, 1981-96.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY

Harvest. Landings of commercially caught red snapper are regulated via a monitored quota system, and as such are predetermined. Landings increased in 1996 due to an increase in the commercial quota (Figure 4). Landings by state are given in Table 5.

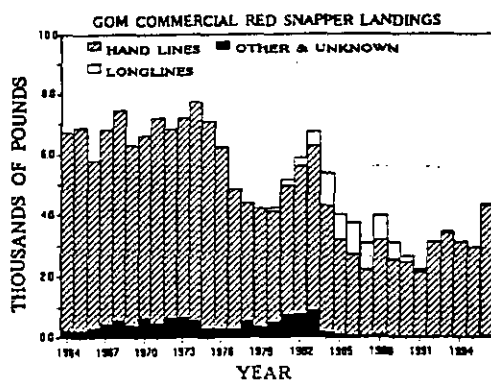


Figure 4. U.S. Gulf of Mexico commercial landings of red snapper.

Spatial Distribution. From the 1975 to 1990, the commercial red snapper fishery has consolidated. In 1975 peak landings were coming from grid 13; in 1995-96 peak landings came from grid 17 showing a gradual yet obvious movement west (Figure 5).

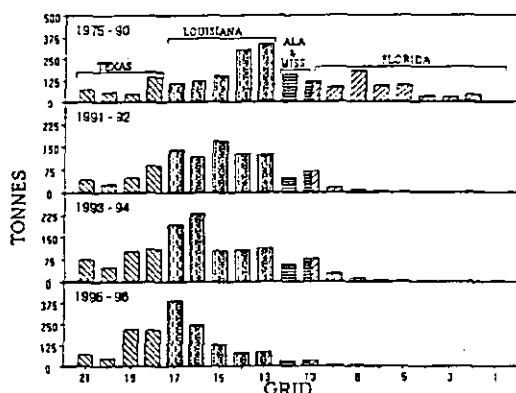


Figure 5. Spatial distribution of the commercial catch of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico for four time periods, regardless of the locations where they were landed.

Furthermore, the Florida fishery that existed in the mid nineteen-seventies is virtually economically extinct (Tables 6-11).

Size Distribution. The commercial handline fishery was found to harvest a different size distribution of red snapper than does the commercial bottom longline (Figure 6). For this reason, the harvest from these two gears were stratified into two different groups and treated individually: harvest from longlines, and harvest from every other gear (nearly all of which is handline gear).

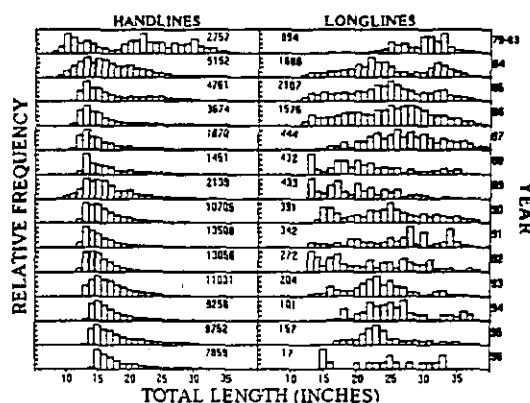


Figure 6. Length frequencies of red snapper by gear 1979-96.

Examination of the length distributions from the commercial handline gear over geographic area revealed that there was also a difference between the east and west areas of the Gulf of Mexico (Figure 7).

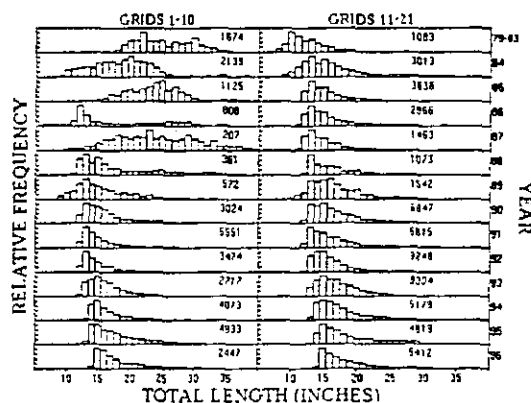


Figure 7. Length frequencies of red snapper caught by handlines by area, 1979-96.

For this reason, the landings from the handline gear were further partitioned into those coming from grids 1-10 (east Gulf of Mexico), and those coming from grids 11-21 (west Gulf of Mexico). As with past analysis, this resulted in a total of three partitions for the commercial landings.

RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Landings. Estimates of recreational harvest are obtained from a combination of the NMFS Headboat Survey, the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistical Survey (MRFSS), and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Sport Fishing Survey. The estimated mean weight of recreationally landed red snapper by state, year, and mode are given in Table 12. The total estimated recreational harvest (in pounds) by the

various modes is shown in Figure 6 and Tables 14-16.

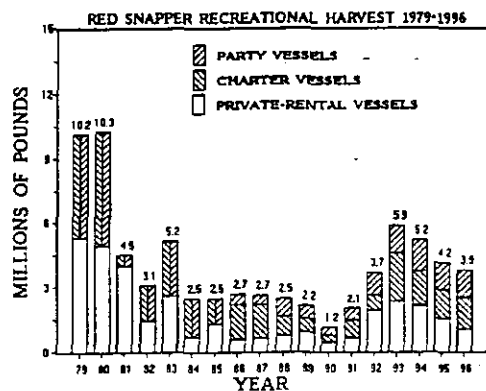


Figure 8. Recreational harvest (weight) estimates of red snapper from the Gulf of Mexico, 1979-96.

The MRFSS also estimates the number of fish that are released (Table 17). An increase in the number of red snapper released is apparent from about 1987 to present (Figure 9). The sharp increase seen in 1990

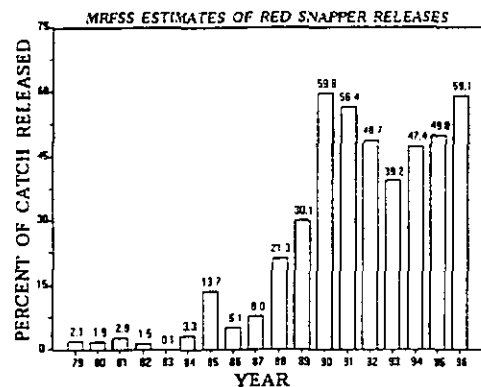


Figure 9. Estimated fractions of red snapper caught and released by recreational fishers 1979-96.

is due to an increase in the minimum size put into place that year (13 inches) as well as the relatively strong 1989 year class recruiting to the fishery (but not yet legal size). Releases then start to decline after 1990 but increase again in 1994 when the minimum legal size was raised to 14 inches. In 1995 and 1996 the estimated number released continued to increase as the minimum legal size was raised to 15 inches and year class strengths generally increased.

Size Distribution. The size distributions of the recreational landings were examined to determine if

stratification of the harvest was necessary. As with all other previous red snapper assessments in the Gulf of Mexico, examination of the length frequencies of the recreational landings by mode did not reveal any significant differences between modes (Figure 10). It

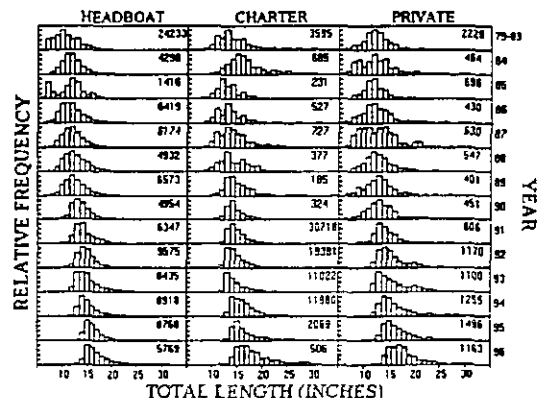


Figure 10. Length frequencies of red snapper by recreational mode, 1979-96.

was apparent, however, that the minimum size regulations were having an effect on the sizes of red snapper that were being harvested. Further examination of length frequencies by state also lead to the conclusion that stratification of the recreational landings by geographic area for the purpose of analysis was also not necessary (Figure 11).

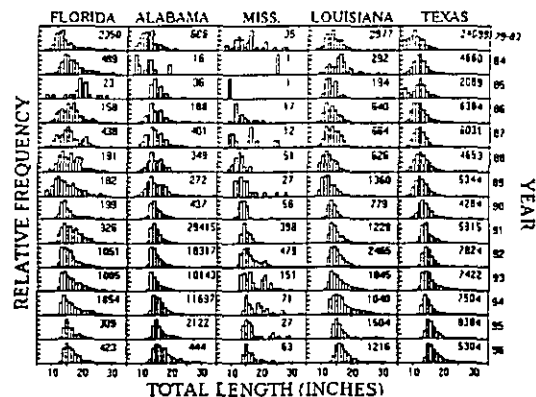


Figure 11. Length frequencies of recreational caught red snapper by state, 1979-96.

COMBINED HARVEST

A gradual, annual decline in the total combined harvest of red snapper is apparent from 1979 to 1990 (Figure 12). After the first significant regulations were put into place in 1990, landings began to increase until they were constrained by commercial quotas and recreational size and creel limits.

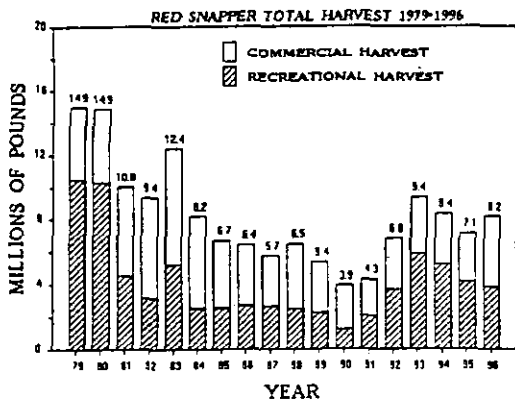


Figure 12. Combined commercial and recreational harvest of red snapper from the Gulf of Mexico, 1979-96.

FISHING MORTALITY

Age composition. Mortality was also estimated by virtual population analysis (VPA) using the probabilistic method described in Goodyear (1997). This method is an iterative one in which the catch at age matrix is modified to agree with a recruitment index during the tuning procedure. The probabilistic method of developing the catch-at-age distribution incorporates the cumulative frequency distributions of length at age, year-class strengths, and estimates of prior survival to build age-probability distributions from sampled lengths. An initial level of fishing mortality at age is assumed, which along with natural mortality provides estimates of the historical survival. These values are combined with the sampled lengths and year-class strengths to estimate the age distributions of the catch. Fishing mortalities and numbers at age are then estimated from the computed catch at age using a tuned sequential population analysis. These estimates of fishing mortality replace the initial values and the process is repeated until convergence is achieved or the procedure reaches a minimum. Age 15 was considered a plus group in the VPA. Year-class strengths were estimated from the summer SEAMAP survey, as described above.

Mortality Estimates

Directed fishery. Fishing mortalities for the directed fishery were estimated through sequential population analysis (SPA) using an extension (Powers and Restrepo 1992) of the ADAPT methodology (Gavaris 1988). The method requires an estimate of age-specific vulnerabilities (also called selectivity or availability) of red snapper to the fishery in the most recent year of the fishery, and an index of abundance with which to "tune" the analysis through least-squares minimization of differences between the

index values and the population estimates they represent. The tuning variables in this analysis were the time series of summer SEAMAP abundance estimates of age 1 red snapper (Figure 2), as were used in the aging method, and the GLM index of CPUE for the private mode from MRFSS. The initial selectivities used in this analysis were the same as those described in Goodyear (1995).

Results of the VPA (catch at age, number at age, and estimate of fishing mortality) are given in Table 19. Estimates of fishing mortality are very similar to those reported in Goodyear (1995). The resulting fits to the summer SEAMAP survey and the GLM index of private mode catch per angler-hour are shown in Figure 13 and 14, respectively.

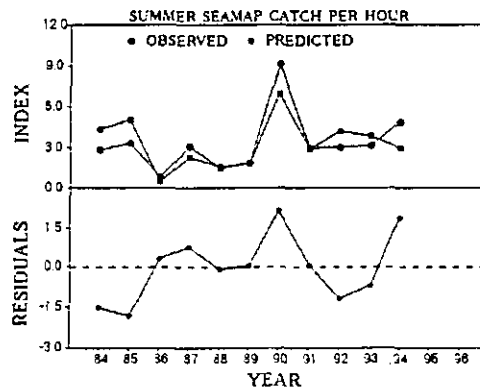


Figure 13. Summer SEAMAP age-1 abundance, predicted value and residuals from ADAPT procedure for that catch at age.

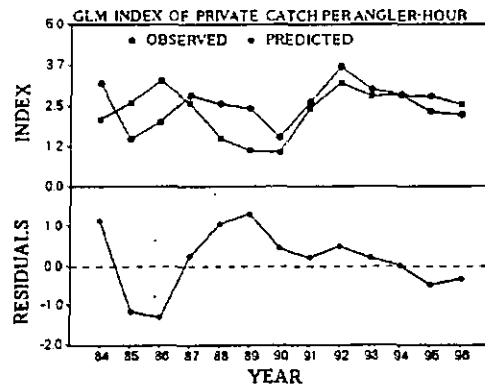


Figure 14. Private mode GLM index of catch per angler-hour, predicted value and residuals from the ADAPT procedure for the catch at age.

The overall coefficient of variation for the estimate of fishing mortality for age 5 in the terminal year was approximately 27 percent.

Shrimp discard mortality. Estimates of the total number of red snapper caught by the shrimp fishery were obtained from S. Nichols, NMFS, Pascagoula, MS (pers. com). These estimates were assigned an age based on the trimester length frequencies samples from the bycatch characterization database (supplied by J. Nance, NMFS, Galveston Laboratory). Shrimp bycatch mortalities for the 1982-1993 year classes were estimated by backward iterative solution of the Baranov catch equation (Ricker 1975). Details of all methods mentioned in this section are given in Goodyear (1995). The resulting catch-at-age is given in Table 19.

POSSIBLE FUTURE CONDITION OF THE STOCK

Minimum Sizes. A simple equilibrium per-recruit analysis was conducted to examine potential gains or losses in yield-per-recruit (YPR) and spawning potential ratio (SPR) under a range of minimum size regulations for two fisheries; commercial and recreational. Initial conditions were set using no minimum size regulation and the percent change in YPR and SPR computed under four sets of size regulations: 1) 14" minimum size for both commercial and recreational fisheries, 2) 15" minimum size for both fisheries, 3) 15" commercial and 16" recreational minimum sizes, and 4) 16" minimum size for both fisheries. The analyses were conducted twice, once assuming a fixed fishing effort by the two fisheries as the minimum size regulations changed, and secondly assuming a constant total yield taken by the fisheries. The data required for the analyses consists of the natural mortality rate (M , set to 0.1), weight at age, fecundity at age, selectivities at age for the two fisheries (see below), and fishing mortality rate multipliers (F_{mult}) for each fishery such that the fishing mortality at age is the product of selectivity and F_{mult} . Yield-per-recruit and spawning potential ratio were computed using the traditional fisheries equations under the assumption that all fish grew according to the von Bertalanffy growth equation, i.e. no variability in length at age, and thus minimum size regulations could be directly converted to ages. In this case the 14, 15 and 16 inch size regulations convert to 3.29, 3.61 and 3.93 years, respectively. Fish caught below the minimum size (age) were not added to the yield but did contribute to the total mortality assuming 33% and 20% release mortality for the commercial and recreational fisheries, respectively.

The selectivity at age pattern used for each fishery is an important assumption in these analyses. Two sets of selectivities were used: 1) computed from observations and 2) same as (1) but not allowed to decrease for ages greater than the one fully selected (see Figure 15). The computed selectivity patterns

were derived using the average of 1984 and 1985 observations as a proxy for what the selectivities by fishery would be under no regulations. The total fishing mortality rate at age from the virtual population analysis was split between the fisheries according to the proportion of catch at age due to each fishery. These two vectors were then rescaled by dividing by the largest observation to make the fully selected age equal to one. The large drop in selectivity at age for the recreational fishery seen in Figure 15 may be an artifact of the method used to create the selectivities. Thus the second set of selectivities assumes a flat-top pattern by setting all ages older than the fully selected age (26 and 3 for commercial and recreational, respectively) equal to one (Figure 15)

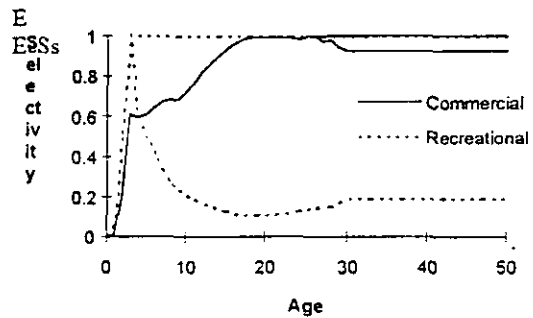


Figure 15. Selectivities used in YPR/SPR analysis of minimum sizes.

Increases in YPR and SPR relative to the no minimum size scenario are given in Table 21a. The spawning potential ratio and total yield-per-recruit increase as the minimum size is raised. However, the fishery specific yield-per-recruits are always greater than the no minimum size condition, but do not always increase as the minimum size increases. For example, using the computed selectivities the recreational YPR does not change as its minimum size is increased from 14 to 15 inches and the YPR decreases as its minimum size further increases to 16 inches, although the values are still greater than the no minimum size condition. This same pattern is seen for the commercial fishery using flat-top selectivities increasing from 15 to 16 inches when the recreational minimum size is 16 inches. Thus the potential gains to the fishery due to increases in minimum size regulations may be offset by decreases in yield-per-recruit to the fisheries.

In the second set of analyses, fixing the total yield landed by the fisheries, the spawning potential ratio increased or decreased relative to the no minimum size regulation depending upon the selectivity pattern used (Table 21b). The computed selectivity patterns produced increasing SPR with increases in the minimum size. The flat-top

selectivities caused the SPR to decrease with increasing minimum size due to larger fishing mortality rates required to achieve the total yield. Thus the raising of minimum size regulations can have a positive or negative impact on SPR if the total allowable catch is fixed depending upon the selectivity patterns of the fisheries.

Goodyear (1995) cites work and provides analysis on how long term yields can be effected by the selective removal of faster growing fish (Parma and Deriso 1990). To the extent that growth is a heritable trait, strong selection for the survival of slower growing fish (which is an effect of minimum size regulations) can have detrimental effects on the long-term productivity of the stock. Although the first minimum size analysis above resulted in an increase in SPR when minimum size was increased from 15 inches to 16 inches, more detailed simulations, discussed below, indicate that this measure would have little if any effect on the value of SPR in the year 2019. These analyses differ in their assumptions of selectivity and variation of size-at-age.

Simulation of management alternatives. A total of twenty eight different management scenarios were simulated using a length-based model (Goodyear 1989). Assumptions for the simulations are as follows: a natural mortality schedule ($M=0.5$ for age 0, $M=0.3$ for age 1, and $M=0.1$ for age 2 and older); that reductions in shrimp bycatch mortality are relative to the 1984–1989 average mortality; and that future recruitment would be computed from a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment curve ($\alpha = 4.076E-03$, and $\beta = 1.736E-11$). Variables examined in the simulations include variations in bycatch reduction, minimum size for commercial and recreational fishery, and managed fishing mortality. Table 22 contains the specific parameters of each of the 28 scenarios.

Increasing the minimum size from 15 to 16 inches for either the recreational or both the recreational and commercial fisheries did not result in an increase in SPR in the year 2019. This is because fish that were being caught were being killed, which contributes to fishing mortality, but not counted towards the yield. As minimum size increased, the portion of the stock that was eligible to contribute to the yield decreased and consequently had to fished harder to achieve the same yield. This increase in effort then resulted in more fish being release (and thus suffering release mortality).

Simulated outcomes of the possible future condition of the red snapper stock were most dependent on the level bycatch reduction. Figure 16 shows isopleths of equal SPR given a range of bycatch reductions and TAC for the directed fishery. This graph assumes that both recreational and commercial fisheries operate at a minimum size of 16

inches. Values of SPR are those values for the year 2019.

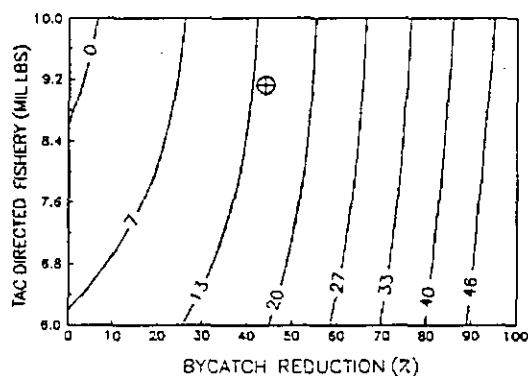


Figure 16. SPR(%) isopleths for the year 2019 as a function of shrimp bycatch reduction and directed fishery TAC, assuming a minimum size of 16 inches for the directed fishery. Circle corresponds to present management scenario

The circle displayed in Figure 16 represents the present management scenario (i.e. 9.12 million pounds TAC for the directed fishery and an assumed bycatch reduction of 44%; see option 7, Table 22). From this graph it can be seen that under the applied model assumptions, the present management scenario will not achieve an SPR of at least 20% in the year 2019. Under the assumptions applied, in order to achieve 20% SPR in 2019 either the TAC must be reduced to approximately 6 million pounds, or bycatch mortality reduced by approximately 55%. If an SPR of 30% in the year 2019 is to be achieved, then bycatch would need to be reduced between 60 and 70 percent of the 1984–1989 average. The vertical nature of the lines in Figure 16 indicate that future levels of SPR are much more sensitive to differences in bycatch mortality than to differences in levels of TAC.

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Table 1. Fall Groundfish Survey estimates of red snapper abundance from the primary survey area. These data reflect the abundance of U.S. Gulf of Mexico red snapper of both age 0 and age 1.

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	2.5K HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
72	144	98	0.681	70	40.88	42.90	46.8
73	231	123	0.532	112	11.00	10.97	151.0
74	231	91	0.394	113	8.17	8.32	143.9
75	234	95	0.406	97	10.56	11.18	71.5
76	268	109	0.407	109	8.49	9.24	94.0
77	242	103	0.426	111	10.11	10.04	97.8
78	250	85	0.340	121	22.25	22.96	65.0
79	260	105	0.404	122	7.84	8.09	74.4
80	210	131	0.624	94	17.95	17.66	93.0
81	219	113	0.516	104	19.91	20.57	39.4
82	254	157	0.618	123	19.14	19.41	80.2
83	206	93	0.451	73	7.17	7.40	84.5
84	211	74	0.351	103	3.55	3.61	125.5
85	117	39	0.333	29	5.50	5.50	63.6
86	41	12	0.293	10	5.56	5.56	36.2
87	62	16	0.258	32	1.90	1.83	190.7
88	67	16	0.239	26	5.23	5.48	64.0
89	63	33	0.524	31	7.36	4.90	89.0
90	76	46	0.605	41	18.14	11.32	56.9
91	66	37	0.561	44	6.18	7.56	51.3
92	53	15	0.283	28	1.98	1.61	116.0
93	82	30	0.366	42	9.36	5.39	57.9
94	70	37	0.529	44	4.87	5.12	127.5
95	58	36	0.621	34	8.54	8.49	35.6
96	53	29	0.547	36	6.83	6.83	143.4

Table 2. Summary of Summer SEAMAP vessel data used to characterize red snapper abundance at age 1 in the Gulf of Mexico. Mean weights are in grams.

VESSEL 17 (Tommy Monroe)

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
82	19	1	0.053	10	2.17	1.39	123.2
83	14	3	0.214	7	2.27	2.72	42.9
84	23	2	0.087	10	0.47	0.99	113.5
85	30	0	0.000	12	0.00	0.00	-
86	28	2	0.071	10	0.69	0.78	272.4
87	58	17	0.293	26	1.90	3.19	138.4
88	40	6	0.150	24	2.81	1.49	167.0
89	30	10	0.333	17	8.04	5.16	109.2
90	28	14	0.500	19	4.40	4.19	66.2
91	26	3	0.115	12	1.05	1.66	69.1
92	30	11	0.367	12	12.35	8.81	70.7
93	23	4	0.174	11	0.95	1.06	105.3
94	25	5	0.200	13	3.17	5.68	68.8

VESSEL 31 (RJ Kempt)

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
82	33	8	0.242	11	6.96	7.37	83.3
85	10	3	0.300	4	1.47	1.32	36.3
86	8	2	0.250	3	0.57	0.69	45.4

VESSEL 35 (LUMCON Pelican)

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
88	23	2	0.087	9	0.92	1.16	53.5
89	20	2	0.100	7	0.76	1.18	42.7
90	21	5	0.238	6	6.00	5.83	56.0
91	23	4	0.174	9	2.81	1.76	91.1
92	22	3	0.136	8	4.18	2.04	170.2
93	24	1	0.042	9	0.08	0.12	100.3
94	24	6	0.250	9	3.42	3.65	72.1

Table 2. Summary of Summer SEAMAP vessel data used to characterize red snapper abundance at age 1 in the Gulf of Mexico (continued).

VESSEL 04 (Oregon 11)

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	2.5K HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
82	202	60	0.297	65	10.32	12.07	135.0
83	231	34	0.147	72	2.44	2.05	96.0
84	219	31	0.142	75	3.09	3.20	92.3
85	134	34	0.254	58	4.02	4.00	105.5
86	145	16	0.110	62	0.84	0.87	69.8
87	220	55	0.250	126	3.36	3.07	116.9
88	185	43	0.232	125	1.32	1.36	128.0
89	185	24	0.130	115	0.99	0.95	112.0
90	236	90	0.381	147	10.00	8.24	95.5
91	225	69	0.307	151	3.20	2.92	140.0
92	232	56	0.241	144	1.71	2.03	99.5
93	248	67	0.270	169	3.62	2.98	66.0
94	232	80	0.345	152	5.19	5.21	97.3
95	209	71	0.340	150	6.21	5.79	99.5
96	220	89	0.405	162	7.56	8.11	90.0

VESSEL 23 (Alabama vessel (s))

YEAR	SUM ALL TOWS	SUM TOWS W/RS	FREQ	HOURS TOWED	UNWTD MEAN /HOUR	WTD MEAN /HOUR	MEAN WEIGHT
89	8	0	0.000	2	0.00	0.00	-
90	14	4	0.286	5	4.10	3.19	54.8
91	7	3	0.429	4	4.03	4.68	95.5
92	15	2	0.133	7	1.84	2.06	60.5
93	8	2	0.250	4	1.27	1.77	69.1
94	7	3	0.429	4	2.37	2.23	65.4

Table 3. Summer SEAMAP red snapper catch per hour towed by vessel and pooled for all vessels based on unweighted means and mean weighted based on tow duration. These data estimate the abundance of U.S. Gulf of Mexico red snapper at age 1.

YR	UNWEIGHTED MEANS				WEIGHTED MEANS			
	VESSEL				VESSEL			
	17	35	04	TOTAL	17	35	04	TOTAL
82	2.17	-	10.32	9.62	1.39	-	12.07	10.63
83	2.27	-	2.44	2.43	2.72	-	2.05	2.10
84	0.47	-	3.09	2.84	0.99	-	3.20	2.94
85	0.00	-	4.02	3.28	0.00	-	4.00	3.31
86	0.69	-	0.84	0.82	0.78	-	0.87	0.85
87	1.90	-	3.36	3.05	3.19	-	3.07	3.09
88	2.81	0.92	1.32	1.52	1.49	1.16	1.36	1.37
89	8.04	0.76	0.99	1.87	5.16	1.18	0.95	1.48
90	4.40	6.00	10.00	9.15	4.19	5.83	8.24	7.70
91	1.05	2.81	3.20	2.96	1.66	1.76	2.92	2.77
92	12.35	4.18	1.71	3.03	8.81	2.04	2.03	2.53
93	0.95	0.08	3.62	3.12	1.06	0.12	2.98	2.74
94	3.17	3.42	5.19	4.86	5.68	3.65	5.21	5.16
95	-	-	6.21	6.21	-	-	5.79	5.79
96	-	-	7.56	7.56	-	-	8.11	8.11

Table 4. Estimates of relative year class strength of red snapper at age 1 based on the abundance and mean weights of red snapper in the Fall Groundfish Survey and the Summer SEAMAP samples. The 1972-1981 values for age-1 recruitment were obtained by decomposing the Fall survey estimates based on mean weight of the fall samples and subsequently adjusting for the spring-fall seasonal differential in catch rates. The 1982-1996 estimates of Age 1 recruitment are from the Summer SEAMAP Survey.

FALL SURVEY DATA							
YR	MEAN WT	NUMBER			PERCENT AGE ONE	SUMMER EQUIVALENT	AGE 1 RECRUITMENT VALUE
		TOTAL	AGE ZERO	AGE ONE			
72	46.8	42.900	35.853	7.047	16.4	14.87	14.87
73	151.0	10.970	5.121	5.849	53.3	12.34	12.34
74	143.9	8.320	4.093	4.227	50.8	8.92	8.92
75	71.5	11.180	8.366	2.814	25.2	5.94	5.94
76	94.0	9.240	6.178	3.062	33.1	6.46	6.46
77	97.8	10.040	6.578	3.462	34.5	7.30	7.30
78	65.0	22.960	17.709	5.251	22.9	11.08	11.08
79	74.4	8.090	5.971	2.119	26.2	4.47	4.47
80	93.0	17.660	11.871	5.789	32.8	12.21	12.21
81	39.4	20.570	17.730	2.840	13.8	5.99	5.99
82	80.2	19.410	13.927	5.483	28.3	11.57	9.62
83	84.5	7.400	5.197	2.203	29.8	4.65	2.43
84	125.5	3.610	2.011	1.599	44.3	3.37	2.84
85	63.6	5.500	4.269	1.231	22.4	2.60	3.28
86	36.2	5.560	4.855	0.705	12.7	1.49	0.82
87	190.7	1.830	0.597	1.233	67.4	2.60	3.05
88	64.2	5.920	4.583	1.337	22.6	2.82	1.52
89	89.0	4.900	3.363	1.537	31.4	3.24	1.87
90	56.9	11.320	9.056	2.264	20.0	4.78	9.15
91	51.3	7.560	6.198	1.362	18.0	2.87	2.96
92	116.0	1.610	0.951	0.659	40.9	1.39	3.03
93	57.9	5.390	4.293	1.097	20.4	2.31	3.12
94	127.5	5.120	2.816	2.304	45.0	4.86	4.86
95	35.6	8.490	7.432	1.058	12.5	2.23	6.21
96	143.4	6.830	3.372	3.458	50.6	7.29	7.56

Table 5. Reported commercial landings for red snapper from the Gulf of Mexico, 1962-1996. The columns labeled "TOTAL" include catches from foreign waters that were landed along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico Coast. Those labeled "US" were caught in GRIDS 1 through 21. Units are thousands of pounds.

YEAR	FLORIDA		ALABAMA		MISSISSIPPI		LOUISIANA		TEXAS		TOTAL	
	US	TOTAL	US	TOTAL	US	TOTAL	US	TOTAL	US	TOTAL	US	TOTAL
1962	5966	-	1893	-	2176	-	694	-	1742	-	12472	-
1963	6569	-	2315	-	1886	-	388	-	2169	-	13326	-
1964	7251	5045	2393	74	1849	514	310	310	2250	1264	14053	7207
1965	6739	5200	2495	94	2366	628	243	243	2212	1211	14055	7375
1966	5761	3890	2701	309	2775	727	208	208	1653	1050	13098	6184
1967	5609	4267	2288	533	2890	1316	302	302	1409	829	12498	7247
1968	4782	4149	1214	832	3726	1906	277	277	1128	719	11126	7883
1969	4750	4156	1246	413	2968	1376	130	130	925	619	10018	6695
1970	4289	3990	983	545	2519	1538	255	255	916	676	8963	7005
1971	4304	3984	939	723	2399	1878	162	162	1082	862	8886	7609
1972	4097	3749	1051	733	2266	1537	259	259	1238	938	8910	7216
1973	4175	4017	960	728	2331	1837	354	354	781	669	8602	7606
1974	5119	4967	891	693	1900	1615	286	286	743	663	8938	8224
1975	4943	4841	833	723	1709	1325	151	151	627	518	8263	7558
1976	4466	4393	635	534	1875	1332	58	58	495	341	7530	6658
1977	3175	3143	520	343	1439	1275	99	99	440	305	5673	5165
1978	3065	2966	426	276	1094	1003	71	71	388	388	5045	4705
1979	2981	2981	535	248	1057	891	176	176	215	215	4964	4510
1980	3113	3113	418	164	930	736	201	201	350	350	5012	4565
1981	3479	3473	504	346	975	674	421	421	585	585	5965	5499
1982	3684	3676	581	514	1041	958	468	464	634	634	6408	6247
1983	4230	4229	535	443	1116	1096	718	718	678	678	7278	7165
1984	2889	2885	340	340	698	629	1092	1092	723	723	5742	5669
1985	1822	1822	199	199	642	393	994	994	780	780	4438	4189
1986	1034	1034	146	146	531	314	1351	1351	903	903	3965	3748
1987	713	712	139	139	513	226	1282	1282	709	709	3356	3068
1988	893	892	97	97	371	290	1818	1818	880	880	4059	3977
1989	788	788	80	80	213	213	1490	1490	527	527	3098	3098
1990	843	843	51	51	200	200	1208	1208	359	359	2662	2662
1991	585	585	51	51	135	135	1161	1161	302	302	2234	2234
1992	668	668	63	63	131	131	1374	1374	903	903	3138	3138
1993	450	450	45	45	129	129	1760	1760	1061	1061	3446	3446
1994	409	409	76	76	151	151	1739	1739	745	745	3120	3120
1995	163	163	36	36	151	151	1613	1613	986	986	2951	2951
1996	220	220	37	37	238	238	2381	2381	1472	1472	4347	4347

Table 6. Gulfwide total commercial landings (thousands of pounds) of red snapper from all gears by year and location of capture (grid).

Year	Unkn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Other	Total
1963	17	6	2324	133	119	1058	171	190	456	468	285	107	0	604	546	1024	77	81	303	204	411	567	4174	13326
1964	10	7	21	49	175	1164	241	191	694	548	353	164	0	731	762	470	112	88	516	130	219	562	6846	14053
1965	17	10	201	45	311	852	206	173	739	626	377	173	0	808	608	386	67	50	448	378	415	487	6679	14055
1966	44	4	252	27	217	749	191	128	505	399	399	228	0	569	638	377	13	186	192	59	585	423	6914	13098
1967	109	3	234	31	146	485	126	134	646	454	415	233	0	812	965	501	158	171	531	131	573	389	5251	12498
1968	105	3	239	14	189	406	212	115	474	384	249	334	0	1468	1013	466	280	53	868	164	556	293	3243	11126
1969	65	5	258	2	201	308	167	93	479	383	262	283	0	1150	785	618	228	105	443	170	470	219	3323	10018
1970	43	6	249	1	213	392	88	57	422	341	221	318	1	1313	865	590	252	114	610	235	480	195	1958	8963
1971	19	0	187	0	157	253	203	58	511	346	264	244	0	1320	993	575	368	575	628	172	432	303	1277	8886
1972	0	0	223	0	197	238	208	36	489	316	366	301	1	1143	1203	494	538	360	572	94	348	116	997	8602
1973	25	0	159	49	173	223	157	48	625	368	392	519	1	1024	1107	426	518	313	503	258	0	285	714	8938
1974	23	0	201	51	233	723	616	81	628	343	371	520	0	816	675	417	388	293	536	13	121	68	872	7530
1975	28	0	150	104	180	673	529	55	694	358	327	526	0	1021	849	441	347	325	546	27	128	249	705	8263
1976	42	0	318	72	168	547	443	45	740	298	233	424	0	606	522	295	309	309	540	71	88	79	508	5673
1977	29	0	155	121	122	246	272	25	476	227	318	301	1	606	522	295	309	309	540	71	88	79	508	5673
1978	13	0	117	101	100	247	229	16	470	217	257	262	0	606	522	295	309	309	540	71	88	79	508	5673
1979	0	0	68	84	84	277	258	19	477	191	283	303	0	518	603	387	273	260	275	41	0	108	454	4964
1980	15	0	127	75	52	167	205	32	606	205	201	319	0	628	567	422	213	218	231	62	115	106	447	5012
1981	0	2	155	86	71	190	143	44	690	245	272	407	3	674	859	305	319	139	332	50	411	103	465	5965
1982	0	2	146	87	59	204	186	25	600	243	369	598	0	681	1024	428	392	244	424	154	261	121	161	6408
1983	416	1	147	89	77	237	218	32	719	268	453	589	0	876	1237	487	396	481	281	82	0	77	113	7278
1984	0	1	69	86	99	193	218	77	319	234	221	431	52	1041	740	324	227	290	386	361	116	185	73	5742
1985	0	1	58	11	29	216	172	15	166	163	196	325	38	852	438	258	182	172	270	176	183	265	248	4438
1986	16	0	9	13	38	69	48	42	43	128	215	269	14	1023	386	232	143	218	304	91	260	186	217	3965
1987	0	0	7	15	26	47	49	18	24	55	189	228	4	677	650	135	123	146	319	80	153	124	288	3356
1988	25	1	6	10	19	31	35	13	28	73	225	310	2	842	771	236	154	315	269	228	103	284	82	4059
1989	0	0	3	5	23	36	41	13	54	49	194	235	0	542	506	442	302	128	194	82	92	157	0	3098
1990	228	1	8	9	18	99	27	24	19	23	208	76	0	394	377	286	279	68	29	11	48	228	0	2462
1991	319	1	4	2	10	11	12	7	13	39	183	58	6	251	305	208	279	270	144	39	23	51	0	2234
1992	416	1	8	3	2	3	4	5	17	29	131	141	30	284	272	540	245	345	250	179	91	141	0	3138
1993	526	4	4	5	6	15	5	17	19	55	146	110	10	236	283	199	494	445	326	259	94	186	0	3446
1994	376	3	4	3	1	7	2	14	15	68	197	133	19	252	196	269	528	409	164	189	122	147	0	3120
1995	245	2	3	3	2	2	1	7	19	19	64	41	11	154	162	279	427	619	305	331	108	150	0	2951
1996	31	1	1	2	3	3	3	5	25	9	96	84	16	214	206	308	656	1103	649	641	118	172	0	4347

Table 2. Gulfwide total commercial landings (thousands of pounds) of red snapper from fish traps by year and location of capture (grid).

Year	Unkn	GRID																					Total	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		Other
1963	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1965	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1966	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1967	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1969	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1972	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1974	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1976	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1977	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1978	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1979	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1980	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1981	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1982	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1984	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1985	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
1991	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1992	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
1993	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1994	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 12. Mean weights and sample sizes for recreationally harvested red snapper by year, state, and mode.

1979						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	6	0.61	12	3.48	1102	4.13
AL	0	-	223	0.82	0	-
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	0	-	0	-	6	1.82
TX	1	8.65	1465	0.98	20	0.72
ALL	7	1.76	1700	0.97	1128	4.06
					795	1.31
					3630	2.01
1980						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	24	2.60	109	1.29
AL	0	-	25	0.79	23	0.79
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	0	-	0	-	1465	2.51
TX	0	-	2139	3.35	81	1.72
ALL	0	-	2188	3.32	1678	2.37
					523	2.07
					4389	2.81
1981						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	13	2.15	20	2.44
AL	0	-	22	2.06	62	1.81
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	0	-	10	6.01	22	1.85
TX	0	-	8089	0.93	0	-
ALL	0	-	8134	0.94	104	1.94
					173	1.69
					8411	0.96
1982						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	24	1.40	29	2.35
AL	0	-	33	3.31	40	1.20
MS	0	-	0	-	10	2.31
LA	0	-	134	1.23	5	3.11
TX	0	-	7932	0.84	18	1.17
ALL	0	-	8123	0.86	102	1.72
					236	2.14
					8461	0.90

Table 12. Mean weights and sample sizes for recreationally harvested red snapper by year, state, and mode (cont.).

1983						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	127	2.27	86	1.58
AL	0	-	28	1.48	118	2.14
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	4	1.03	416	1.50	424	1.57
TX	1	0.49	3577	1.13	19	1.22
ALL	5	0.92	4148	1.21	647	1.67
1984						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	19	6.69	38	1.73
AL	0	-	2	0.99	3	2.36
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	0	-	26	1.53	214	4.01
TX	11	0.82	4253	1.13	6	2.29
ALL	11	0.82	4300	1.16	261	3.62
1985						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	15	4.20	3	6.97
AL	0	-	2	1.43	36	2.29
MS	0	-	0	-	0	-
LA	0	-	62	1.44	40	3.39
TX	0	-	1340	1.07	94	1.95
ALL	0	-	1419	1.12	173	2.44
1986						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	96	2.66	61	3.77
AL	0	-	72	2.31	105	2.33
MS	0	-	0	-	16	1.43
LA	0	-	237	1.86	354	1.67
TX	0	-	6016	1.31	6	2.55
ALL	0	-	6420	1.36	542	2.04

Table 13. Mean weights and sample sizes for recreationally harvested red snapper by year, state, and mode (cont.).

1987						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	98	3.04	219	2.95
AL	0	-	96	3.02	242	2.34
MS	0	-	0	-	10	2.84
LA	0	-	413	1.75	230	1.81
TX	0	-	5569	1.33	29	3.00
ALL	0	-	6175	1.41	730	2.39
					634	1.79
					7539	1.54
1988						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	1	0.48	100	2.47	65	2.67
AL	0	-	98	2.39	246	2.01
MS	0	-	0	-	42	1.02
LA	0	-	556	1.37	6	1.51
TX	0	-	4180	1.88	25	3.56
ALL	1	0.48	4933	1.85	384	2.10
					558	1.86
					5876	1.87
1989						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	10	0.73	146	2.40	17	2.72
AL	0	-	140	2.24	125	2.53
MS	0	-	0	-	27	2.41
LA	0	-	1278	1.62	20	1.79
TX	0	-	5009	1.53	9	5.12
ALL	10	0.73	6573	1.58	198	2.57
					406	1.80
					7187	1.62
1990						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	6	1.39	168	2.36	17	4.25
AL	10	1.97	165	2.11	214	2.36
MS	0	-	0	-	14	1.79
LA	0	-	716	1.83	83	1.90
TX	0	-	3570	1.79	7	1.36
ALL	16	1.76	4619	1.83	335	2.30
					452	1.79
					5422	1.85

Table 12. Mean weights and sample sizes for recreationally harvested red snapper by year, state, and mode (cont.).

1991						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	2	3.75	252	2.35	51	2.03
AL	0	-	248	2.27	29030	1.99
MS	0	-	0	-	42	3.05
LA	0	-	944	2.36	281	3.45
TX	0	-	2477	1.76	15	2.00
ALL	2	3.75	3921	1.97	29419	2.00
					723	2.02
					34065	2.00

1992						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	362	2.21	220	2.12
AL	0	-	361	2.20	17681	2.06
MS	0	-	0	-	250	3.39
LA	0	-	2090	2.73	312	3.00
TX	0	-	6073	2.26	60	2.47
ALL	0	-	8886	2.37	18523	2.09
					1198	2.55
					28607	2.20

1993						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	203	2.35	257	2.41
AL	0	-	193	2.25	9798	2.18
MS	0	-	0	-	98	3.03
LA	0	-	1657	2.95	125	3.34
TX	0	-	5398	2.55	28	4.47
ALL	0	-	7450	2.63	10306	2.21
					1082	2.83
					18838	2.41

1994						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	2	0.61	920	2.78	116	3.01
AL	0	-	404	2.76	11187	2.79
MS	0	-	0	-	33	5.65
LA	0	-	854	3.90	118	4.46
TX	0	-	5788	2.49	48	4.45
ALL	2	0.61	7965	2.69	11502	2.83
					1264	3.05
					20733	2.79

Table 12. Mean weights and sample sizes for recreationally harvested red snapper by year, state, and mode (cont.).

1995						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	222	3.18	58	2.40
AL	0	-	221	3.18	1593	2.96
MS	0	-	0	-	5	9.48
LA	0	-	1303	4.32	145	4.20
TX	0	-	7022	3.16	35	3.52
ALL	0	-	8767	3.33	1836	3.07

1996						
ST	SHORE		HEADBOAT		CHARTER	
	N	lbs	N	lbs	N	lbs
FL	0	-	248	2.98	61	4.19
AL	0	-	248	2.98	133	4.36
MS	0	-	0	-	36	3.16
LA	0	-	1060	3.70	108	4.18
TX	0	-	4186	3.28	67	4.26
ALL	0	-	5742	3.33	405	4.16

Table 13. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by state for the period 1979-1996. The estimates are based on the 1979-1996 MRFSS, the 1986-1996 NMFS Headboat Survey, and 1981-1996 length-frequency samples and 1986-1994 catch estimates compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The weight estimates are the sums of products of the annual harvest and mean weight estimates for each state by mode where the sample size available to estimate mean weight exceeded 25 individuals. Where the sample size was less than 25, the state or gulfwide annual mean was substituted following the same convention. The estimates have been adjusted for missing data in January and February, 1981 in all states, and for 1982-1984 in Texas by the average proportions observed in years where these strata were sampled. The Texas estimates do not include shore mode after 1985. Units are in thousands of fish and pounds.

Year	All Areas Combined											
	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1979	1349	4049	1301	1180	1	2	822	3217	2003	1966	5475	10414
1980	870	1357	78	66	51	144	1562	4006	1527	4718	4089	10291
1981	308	558	473	882	0	0	1106	2745	385	357	2272	4543
1982	295	629	452	939	35	32	651	1128	493	414	1927	3142
1983	227	459	850	1701	11	14	1527	2352	604	687	3218	5213
1984	60	186	129	174	0	1	465	1602	491	585	1145	2547
1985	209	930	260	568	2	3	302	610	357	427	1130	2537
1986	505	1547	106	262	1	2	247	445	336	443	1195	2699
1987	544	1655	136	332	20	31	101	178	359	483	1160	2678
1988	334	916	161	340	15	18	249	375	466	873	1226	2521
1989	215	507	180	424	132	318	184	316	458	700	1169	2265
1990	88	222	214	481	20	38	99	182	200	355	621	1278
1991	194	451	249	496	65	162	176	461	285	507	969	2076
1992	183	400	403	833	211	664	251	696	490	1116	1538	3709
1993	474	1148	556	1214	170	598	380	1136	703	1818	2283	5913
1994	292	838	409	1147	98	450	287	1141	650	1659	1737	5235
1995	137	424	349	1061	36	131	309	1328	392	1242	1222	4185
1996	219	700	283	1026	52	163	208	779	352	1182	1113	3852

Table 14. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by state and distance from shore for the period 1979-1996. See the caption for Table 13 for details on the data sources.

State Inshore Waters											
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb Wt
1979	1233	3702	0	0	0	0	78	306	185	181	1496 4190
1980	19	30	0	0	0	0	71	183	0	0	91 213
1981	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 2
1982	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	13	16 13
1983	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	31	27 31
1984	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	23	19 23
1985	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	71	0	0	35 71
1986	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	5	6 8
1987	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	7 16
1988	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	8	6 10
1989	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	2 5
1990	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	4	7	5 11
1991	9	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	14 29
1992	1	2	2	5	6	18	6	17	12	26	27 68
1993	4	9	17	37	0	0	1	2	10	26	32 76
1994	0	0	10	28	0	0	0	0	5	13	15 42
1995	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	5	15	6 19
1996	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1 5

State Territorial Seas											
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb Wt
1979	72	218	8	7	0	0	0	0	18	18	98 242
1980	350	547	0	0	0	1	31	79	66	204	448 831
1981	219	397	273	509	0	0	12	30	121	112	625 1047
1982	176	375	449	934	0	0	49	84	22	19	697 1412
1983	45	91	21	41	0	0	79	122	26	29	170 283
1984	35	109	8	11	0	0	77	264	3	3	122 387
1985	22	98	0	0	0	0	14	29	0	0	36 127
1986	174	533	1	1	0	0	24	44	8	11	207 589
1987	233	710	39	95	0	0	6	11	2	3	281 819
1988	39	106	34	71	3	4	0	0	5	9	80 190
1989	87	206	0	0	0	1	0	0	64	98	152 305
1990	60	152	47	105	1	2	15	28	11	19	133 305
1991	127	295	10	20	0	0	5	14	6	11	149 341
1992	47	102	21	43	10	33	34	95	8	18	120 291
1993	118	285	14	31	0	0	3	10	187	483	322 809
1994	77	221	15	42	7	31	34	137	16	41	149 472
1995	100	310	2	7	0	0	9	40	19	62	131 419
1996	72	231	0	0	0	2	2	6	5	17	79 255

Table 14. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by state and distance from shore for the period 1979-1996. See the caption for Table 13 for details on the data sources (cont).

EEZ												
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1979	43	129	1293	1173	1	2	744	2911	1800	1767	3880	5982
1980	500	780	78	66	51	143	1460	3744	1461	4515	3550	9247
1981	88	160	200	374	0	0	1094	2716	264	245	1647	3494
1982	119	254	3	6	35	32	602	1043	455	382	1214	1716
1983	182	368	830	1660	11	14	1447	2230	551	627	3021	4899
1984	25	77	121	163	0	1	388	1338	470	559	1004	2137
1985	187	832	260	568	2	3	253	510	357	427	1059	2339
1986	331	1014	105	260	1	2	221	399	324	427	983	2102
1987	306	932	97	237	20	31	95	167	354	476	873	1843
1988	295	809	127	269	11	12	249	375	457	856	1139	2321
1989	128	302	180	424	131	314	184	316	393	600	1015	1956
1990	28	70	166	372	19	36	84	154	185	330	482	962
1991	58	134	238	476	65	162	171	447	275	488	807	1706
1992	135	296	379	785	195	613	211	584	471	1071	1391	3350
1993	352	853	525	1146	170	597	375	1123	506	1308	1929	5028
1994	215	617	384	1076	91	419	253	1004	629	1605	1572	4721
1995	37	114	345	1049	36	130	299	1287	368	1165	1085	3746
1996	146	467	283	1026	51	162	207	774	346	1164	1033	3592

Table 15. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by state and fishing mode for the period 1979-1996. See the caption for Table 13 for details on the data sources.

Shore mode												
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1979	79	237	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	93	251
1980	23	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	37
1981	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1982	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	4	5	11	16
1984	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	21	18	21
1985	6	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	28
1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1987	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
1988	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10
1989	34	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	80
1990	18	46	32	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	119
1991	9	21	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22
1992	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1993	4	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10
1994	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13
1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Party/Charters												
	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
Year	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1979	987	2962	232	210	0	0	3	12	1671	1641	2892	4824
1980	581	906	64	54	0	0	9	23	1390	4296	2044	5279
1981	43	77	94	175	0	0	61	152	136	126	334	531
1982	174	371	210	436	27	25	297	514	400	336	1108	1681
1983	211	427	609	1219	0	0	233	358	485	552	1538	2556
1984	32	99	84	113	0	0	306	1055	452	539	874	1806
1985	24	108	206	451	0	0	213	430	177	211	621	1201
1986	434	1331	78	194	0	0	99	178	303	399	914	2101
1987	446	1358	61	149	0	0	68	120	312	420	888	2046
1988	221	607	144	305	6	7	39	59	399	746	810	1724
1989	116	274	158	372	2	4	31	54	361	552	668	1256
1990	43	108	63	142	4	8	58	106	174	309	342	673
1991	131	304	100	199	1	4	169	444	236	420	638	1370
1992	131	287	125	259	3	8	126	348	377	857	761	1760
1993	424	1026	241	525	26	92	181	542	523	1352	1395	3538
1994	266	762	147	411	20	92	154	611	459	1173	1046	3049
1995	125	388	177	537	2	7	153	658	322	1021	778	2609
1996	197	632	172	625	11	35	114	426	315	1057	809	2776

Table 15. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by state and fishing mode for the period 1979-1996 See the caption for Table 13 for details on the data sources (cont.).

	Private/rental											
	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
Year	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1979	283	850	1069	970	1	2	819	3205	318	312	2490	5339
1980	266	414	14	12	51	144	1553	3983	137	422	2021	4976
1981	266	480	379	708	0	0	1045	2593	249	231	1938	4012
1982	121	258	242	504	8	7	354	614	93	78	819	1461
1983	16	32	241	482	11	14	1287	1982	115	130	1669	2641
1984	28	87	45	60	0	1	159	547	21	25	253	720
1985	179	795	53	117	2	3	89	179	180	215	503	1309
1986	71	217	27	68	1	2	148	267	33	44	281	597
1987	96	291	75	183	20	31	33	58	47	63	271	626
1988	109	299	17	35	9	10	210	316	68	126	412	787
1989	65	153	22	52	130	314	153	262	97	148	467	929
1990	27	68	119	267	16	30	41	75	26	46	229	486
1991	54	126	148	296	64	158	7	17	49	87	322	684
1992	51	113	277	574	209	656	126	348	114	259	777	1950
1993	46	112	315	687	144	505	198	594	180	466	884	2365
1994	22	63	263	736	78	358	133	529	191	487	687	2173
1995	12	37	173	524	34	124	156	670	70	221	444	1575
1996	21	68	111	401	40	128	94	353	37	125	304	1076

Table 16. Recreational harvest estimates for Gulf of Mexico red snapper by party/headboats and charter vessels by state for the period 1979-1996. See the caption for Table 13 for details on the data sources.

Party (Headboats)												
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1986	9	28	7	18	0	0	14	26	302	397	333	469
1987	5	16	5	11	0	0	10	17	310	417	329	461
1988	9	24	6	14	0	0	28	43	395	739	438	819
1989	6	14	5	12	0	0	12	21	360	551	384	598
1990	9	23	8	17	0	0	14	25	173	308	204	374
1991	8	19	8	15	0	0	29	75	236	419	281	528
1992	17	38	17	35	0	0	41	114	372	846	447	1033
1993	19	47	18	40	0	0	48	143	411	1062	496	1292
1994	15	44	14	40	0	0	47	188	450	1150	528	1422
1995	12	37	11	35	0	0	35	150	320	1013	378	1235
1996	14	46	14	51	0	0	40	149	309	1040	378	1286

Charter												
Year	Florida		Alabama		Mississippi		Louisiana		Texas		Total Gulf	
	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt	Numb	Wt
1986	425	1303	71	175	0	0	84	152	1	1	581	1632
1987	441	1342	57	138	0	0	59	103	2	3	559	1586
1988	213	583	138	291	6	7	11	16	4	8	372	905
1989	110	260	153	360	2	4	19	33	1	1	285	658
1990	34	85	55	124	4	8	44	81	0	1	138	299
1991	123	285	92	184	1	4	141	369	0	1	357	842
1992	114	250	108	224	3	8	84	233	5	11	314	727
1993	405	980	222	485	26	92	133	399	112	290	899	2246
1994	250	717	132	371	20	92	107	424	9	23	518	1627
1995	113	350	165	502	2	7	118	508	2	7	400	1374
1996	183	586	158	573	11	35	74	277	5	17	431	1490

Table 17. Estimates of fractions of red snapper caught and released by recreational fishermen by fishing mode and year for the period 1979-1996 based on the NMRFSS data. Note: charter boat data are included with headboats before 1986.

Year	Headboats			Charter			Private/rental			Combined		
	Kept	Rel	% Rel	Kept	Rel	% Rel	Kept	Rel	% Rel	Kept	Rel	% Rel
1979	2892	0	0.0				2490	114	4.4	5382	114	2.1
1980	2044	40	1.9				2021	40	2.0	4065	81	1.9
1981	323	6	2.0				1792	55	3.0	2115	61	2.8
1982	708	12	1.6				726	11	1.4	1433	22	1.5
1983	1053	2	0.1				1554	0	0.0	2607	2	0.1
1984	422	1	0.3				232	21	8.3	654	22	3.3
1985	621	2	0.4				503	177	26.0	1124	179	13.7
1986				580	30	4.9	247	15	5.7	827	45	5.1
1987				556	31	5.2	224	37	14.2	780	68	8.0
1988				368	27	6.8	344	166	32.5	712	193	21.3
1989				284	81	22.1	370	202	35.3	654	282	30.1
1990				137	141	50.6	203	361	64.1	340	502	59.6
1991				357	286	44.4	273	531	66.0	630	816	56.4
1992				309	259	45.6	663	663	50.0	972	923	48.7
1993				786	307	28.1	704	654	48.2	1490	961	39.2
1994				509	411	44.7	496	494	49.9	1005	906	47.4
1995				398	439	52.5	374	325	46.5	772	764	49.8
1996				426	677	61.4	267	326	55.0	693	1003	59.1

Table 18. Mean 1984-1993 monthly distribution of red snapper recreational harvest from the Gulf of Mexico by mode based on MRFSS, the NMFS Headboat Survey, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Coastal Sportfishing Survey.

Month	Percentage of Annual Harvest			
	Headboat	Charter	Private	Total
Jan	5.714	1.982	3.445	3.779
Feb	5.693	1.982	3.445	3.772
Mar	5.694	5.250	5.320	5.423
Apr	5.703	5.250	5.320	5.426
May	5.711	9.646	9.466	8.287
Jun	9.989	9.646	9.466	9.687
Jul	14.141	10.968	13.783	13.115
Aug	14.826	10.968	13.783	13.339
Sep	8.132	15.477	10.601	11.154
Oct	8.130	15.477	10.601	11.153
Nov	8.129	6.677	7.384	7.430
Dec	8.138	6.677	7.384	7.433
All	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000

Table 19. Estimated numbers of Gulf of Mexico red snapper killed by all fishing activities by age and year for the period 1984-1996 based on the iterative aging algorithm for $M=0.10$, and the estimated numbers at age and fishing mortality rates from the final ADAPT solution sequential analysis of the discarded shrimp bycatch of red snapper.

CATCH AT AGE DURING THE YEAR													
Age	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
0	8657095	5821716	11428847	9281522	10729889	17211304	16734175	22021120	16763863	19637220	20809836		
1	7994818	14485197	7867212	15011034	12310327	10658996	37116288	25581094	13810050	15215906	22335192	24314952	
2	793213	566608	637329	176608	671265	472663	363895	587909	265754	412870	286904	196749	224308
3	941071	773401	853321	1179020	206000	950396	651744	809651	2050575	1100942	1119604	783855	863259
4	365437	277575	356112	388217	928699	21007	241048	216417	338281	1586703	572698	590622	746289
5	178079	162443	161786	155739	279281	397961	4512	100027	78619	51065	692879	162253	384659
6	103762	108006	83543	82146	117041	177910	151355	2753	47157	12057	9802	247626	114224
7	63906	72479	54605	48979	64255	74667	91180	118983	2075	16138	1725	3216	177390
8	42367	50222	40842	32693	39279	39123	37258	80626	127187	1434	3303	533	2048
9	31272	36143	31694	23286	26009	22831	16555	35283	103713	138153	481	1182	317
10	25158	26764	24828	17524	18025	14198	8595	16931	46275	142714	69662	218	709
11	19584	18934	19453	13379	12720	8391	5110	9130	19160	68900	102551	42073	145
12	15161	13587	14151	10693	9752	5460	3179	5583	8769	27608	55770	67799	29206
13	11473	9812	10239	7911	7755	3840	2230	3442	4546	11754	24483	39219	49460
14	8459	7078	7345	5814	5636	2816	1697	2339	2430	5609	11154	17860	30090
15+	19862	16886	16842	15247	12944	5797	4588	5779	4465	7212	13186	18056	30573

NUMBER AT AGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR													
Age	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
0	45155680	20687148	43483012	34730048	33823572	96801568	68300704	58484072	52734696	66540572	71195992		
1	15482914	24470944	9516255	20838452	16430244	14513651	53852340	33680964	21951668	22581758	29870652	32021200	
2	3746506	4546556	5283699	489258	360522	1657804	1850080	7306389	3050593	4392134	3994448	3062227	3077323
3	2258376	2637339	3575772	4175578	275434	1499501	1051943	1328683	6052502	2507805	3581937	3341706	2583851
4	1066110	1152890	1653226	2426067	2660430	38000	461054	337364	438717	3533849	1227646	2180013	2280133
5	607640	618466	779888	1158018	1826631	1527543	14550	189467	101323	77338	1696749	569277	1412530
6	382336	381007	405568	552154	899924	1387640	1004785	8889	76952	16556	21881	879501	361282
7	257506	247566	242354	287698	421613	703134	1086630	765460	5434	25162	3644	10527	561037
8	184192	172389	155301	167487	213825	320484	565296	896593	579651	2952	7560	1666	6477
9	138824	126473	108375	101792	120522	156196	252829	476096	734672	403819	1316	3716	1003
10	101669	95945	80173	68018	70014	84375	119653	213037	397264	566277	234513	735	2242
11	76048	68133	61439	49013	44926	46258	62868	100100	176677	315507	377037	146164	459
12	53852	48431	43697	37158	31663	28592	33891	52030	81900	141664	220112	243919	92369
13	38828	34353	30940	26130	23485	19407	20689	27646	41775	65777	101983	146273	156426
14	27690	24258	21782	18295	16145	13902	13916	16602	21746	33482	48360	69054	95165
15+	63031	55213	49162	41250	33918	27699	29462	33273	37412	46966	60601	75479	96691

F AT AGE DURING YEAR													
Age	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
0	0.279	0.443	0.402	0.415	0.513	0.253	0.374	0.647	0.515	0.468	0.466		
1	0.925	1.233	2.668	1.878	1.994	1.760	1.697	2.102	1.309	1.432	1.978	2.042	
2	0.251	0.140	0.135	0.474	0.354	0.355	0.231	0.088	0.096	0.104	0.078	0.070	0.080
3	0.572	0.367	0.288	0.351	1.881	1.079	1.037	1.008	0.438	0.614	0.397	0.282	0.431
4	0.445	0.291	0.256	0.184	0.455	0.860	0.789	1.103	1.636	0.634	0.669	0.334	0.420
5	0.367	0.322	0.245	0.152	0.175	0.319	0.393	0.801	1.712	1.163	0.557	0.355	0.336
6	0.335	0.352	0.243	0.170	0.147	0.145	0.172	0.392	1.018	1.414	0.632	0.350	0.402
7	0.301	0.366	0.270	0.197	0.174	0.118	0.092	0.178	0.510	1.102	0.683	0.386	0.402
8	0.276	0.364	0.322	0.229	0.214	0.137	0.072	0.099	0.262	0.708	0.610	0.408	0.402
9	0.269	0.356	0.366	0.274	0.257	0.167	0.071	0.081	0.160	0.444	0.482	0.405	0.402
10	0.300	0.346	0.392	0.315	0.315	0.194	0.078	0.087	0.130	0.307	0.373	0.372	0.402
11	0.325	0.344	0.403	0.337	0.352	0.211	0.089	0.101	0.121	0.260	0.336	0.359	0.402
12	0.350	0.348	0.414	0.359	0.390	0.224	0.104	0.120	0.119	0.229	0.309	0.344	0.402
13	0.370	0.356	0.426	0.382	0.424	0.233	0.120	0.140	0.121	0.208	0.290	0.330	0.402
14	0.386	0.365	0.436	0.405	0.455	0.239	0.137	0.160	0.125	0.193	0.277	0.316	0.402
15+	0.396	0.374	0.443	0.428	0.480	0.243	0.153	0.178	0.129	0.184	0.267	0.303	0.402

Table 20. Estimates of shrimp bycatch fishing mortality for Gulf of Mexico snappers based on the ADAPT estimates of the numbers alive at the beginning of the year. The columns labeled "AGE" are ages in trisemesters. The columns labeled "M" are monthly mortality rates. The columns labeled "F" are monthly fishing mortality rates. The columns labeled "Cum F" are cumulative totals for the duration of exposure to the shrimp fishery which is assumed to end at the end of December of the fish's second year of life.

82							83							84						
Age	Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F			
2	150991	3.59E+07	0.50	0.00	0.00		367929	3.59E+07	0.50	0.01	0.01		299284	4.52E+07	0.50	0.01	0.01			
3	9509235	3.03E+07	0.50	0.41	0.42		10881426	3.00E+07	0.50	0.50	0.51		8357811	3.79E+07	0.50	0.27	0.28			
4	2324304	1.69E+07	0.30	0.16	0.57		1649304	1.55E+07	0.30	0.12	0.63		2352304	2.45E+07	0.30	0.11	0.39			
5	5010375	1.31E+07	0.30	0.51	1.09		4128020	1.24E+07	0.30	0.43	1.05		5142517	1.99E+07	0.30	0.32	0.70			
6	2846878	7.12E+06	0.30	0.54	1.63		2217494	7.35E+06	0.30	0.38	1.43		6990376	1.31E+07	0.30	0.81	1.51			
85							86							87						
Age	Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F			
2	80788	2.07E+07	0.50	0.00	0.00		948923	4.35E+07	0.50	0.02	0.02		194910	3.47E+07	0.50	0.01	0.01			
3	5740928	1.74E+07	0.50	0.44	0.44		10479924	3.59E+07	0.50	0.38	0.40		9086612	2.92E+07	0.50	0.41	0.42			
4	2905686	9.52E+06	0.30	0.39	0.83		3221852	2.08E+07	0.30	0.18	0.58		2955072	1.64E+07	0.30	0.21	0.62			
5	4074763	5.86E+06	0.30	1.29	2.11		6226942	1.58E+07	0.30	0.53	1.11		6822674	1.21E+07	0.30	0.89	1.52			
6	886763	1.46E+06	0.30	1.00	3.11		5562240	8.40E+06	0.30	1.17	2.28		2532581	4.47E+06	0.30	0.89	2.41			
88							89							90						
Age	Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F			
2	528398	3.38E+07	0.50	0.02	0.02		1857589	9.68E+07	0.50	0.02	0.02		303889	6.83E+07	0.50	0.00	0.00			
3	10201491	2.81E+07	0.50	0.50	0.51		15353715	8.02E+07	0.50	0.23	0.25		16430286	5.75E+07	0.50	0.37	0.37			
4	3674100	1.45E+07	0.30	0.31	0.82		6781821	5.39E+07	0.30	0.14	0.39		6685738	3.37E+07	0.30	0.23	0.61			
5	6024511	9.65E+06	0.30	1.05	1.87		14903932	4.23E+07	0.30	0.46	0.86		12571048	2.41E+07	0.30	0.79	1.39			
6	960385	3.05E+06	0.30	0.40	2.27		15430535	2.41E+07	0.30	1.10	1.95		6324308	9.96E+06	0.30	1.08	2.48			
91							92							93						
Age	Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F			
2	809690	5.85E+07	0.50	0.02	0.02		706852	5.27E+07	0.50	0.01	0.01		929948	6.65E+07	0.50	0.02	0.02			
3	21211430	4.88E+07	0.50	0.63	0.65		16057011	4.40E+07	0.50	0.50	0.51		18707272	5.55E+07	0.50	0.45	0.47			
4	3346971	2.20E+07	0.30	0.17	0.82		5397042	2.26E+07	0.30	0.29	0.80		5639676	2.99E+07	0.30	0.22	0.69			
5	7033119	1.67E+07	0.30	0.58	1.40		8195095	1.53E+07	0.30	0.82	1.62		11990949	2.17E+07	0.30	0.86	1.55			
6	3429960	8.44E+06	0.30	0.55	1.96		1623769	6.12E+06	0.30	0.33	1.95		4704568	8.29E+06	0.30	0.90	2.45			
94							95							96						
Age	Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F		Catch	N at age	M	F	Cum F			
2	62727	7.12E+07	0.50	0.00	0.00		908275	3.81E+07	0.50	0.03	0.03		0	0.00E+00	0.50	0.00	0.00			
3	20747108	6.02E+07	0.50	0.46	0.47		20012188	3.14E+07	0.50	1.14	1.17		0	0.00E+00	0.50	0.00	0.00			
4	7445472	3.20E+07	0.30	0.28	0.75		0	8.49E+06	0.30	0.00	1.17		0	0.00E+00	0.30	0.00	0.00			
5	11852197	2.19E+07	0.30	0.83	1.58		0	7.68E+06	0.30	0.00	1.17		0	0.00E+00	0.30	0.00	0.00			
6	5017285	8.63E+06	0.30	0.93	2.51		0	6.95E+06	0.30	0.00	1.17		0	0.00E+00	0.30	0.00	0.00			

Table 21A. Change in yield-per-recruit (YPR) and spawning potential ratio (SPR) under four minimum size regulation scenarios relative to the no minimum size condition for two selectivity patterns: computed and flat-top.

COMPUTED SELECTIVITIES					
Minimum Size Com	Rec	YPR Com	YPR Rec	YPR Total	SPR
14	14	6.2%	3.5%	5.7%	6.6%
15	15	8.5%	3.5%	7.7%	9.4%
15	16	10.4%	0.5%	8.8%	11.2%
16	16	10.7%	1.7%	9.2%	12.5%

FLAT-TOPPED SELECTIVITIES					
Minimum Size Com	Rec	YPR Com	YPR Rec	YPR Total	SPR
14	14	4.0%	3.8%	3.9%	4.4%
15	15	5.5%	5.0%	5.2%	6.3%
15	16	6.8%	5.2%	6.0%	7.5%
16	16	6.7%	6.0%	6.3%	8.3%

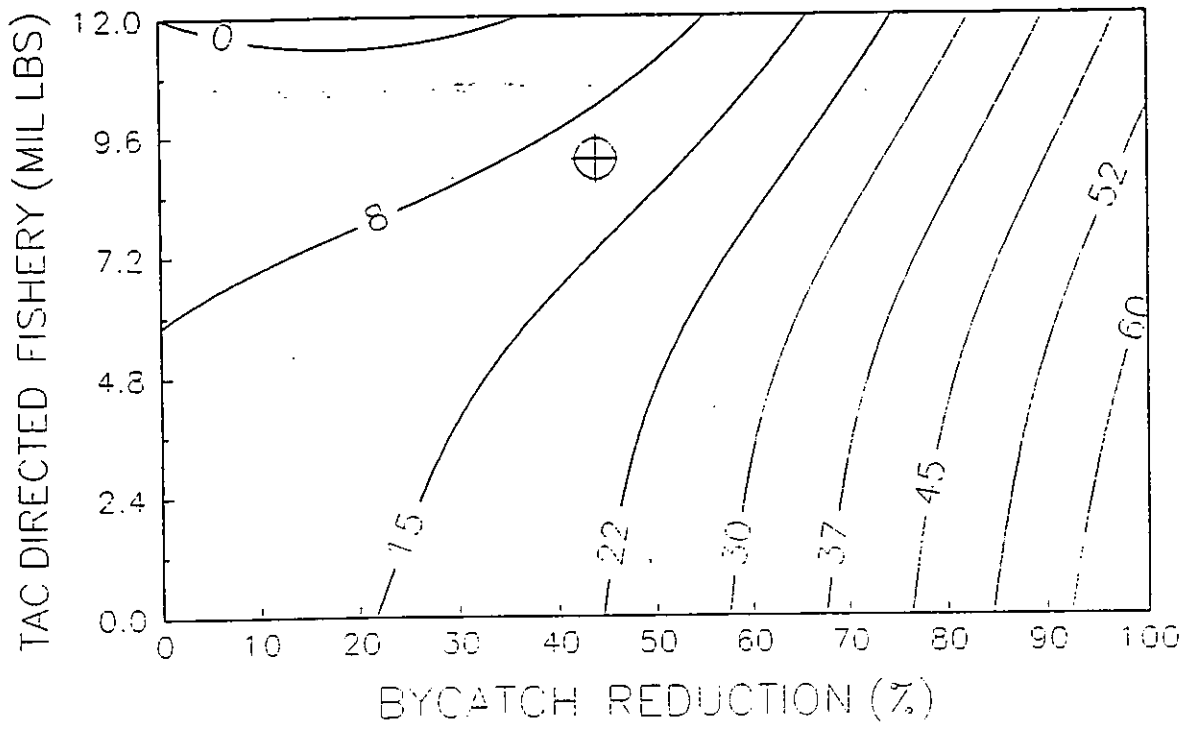
Table 21B. Change in spawning potential ratio from the no minimum size condition under four minimum size regulations assuming the total yield is held constant.

Minimum Size Com	Rec	Selectivities Computed	Flat-Topped
14	14	32.2%	-47.7%
15	15	39.7%	-53.1%
15	16	42.1%	-55.3%
16	16	45.1%	-56.5%

Table 22. Outcome of all simulated management scenarios in terms of either SPR or yield for all combinations of bycatch reduction, minimum sizes, total allowable catch, and managed fishing mortality, for the year 2019. TAC and yield is in millions of pounds.

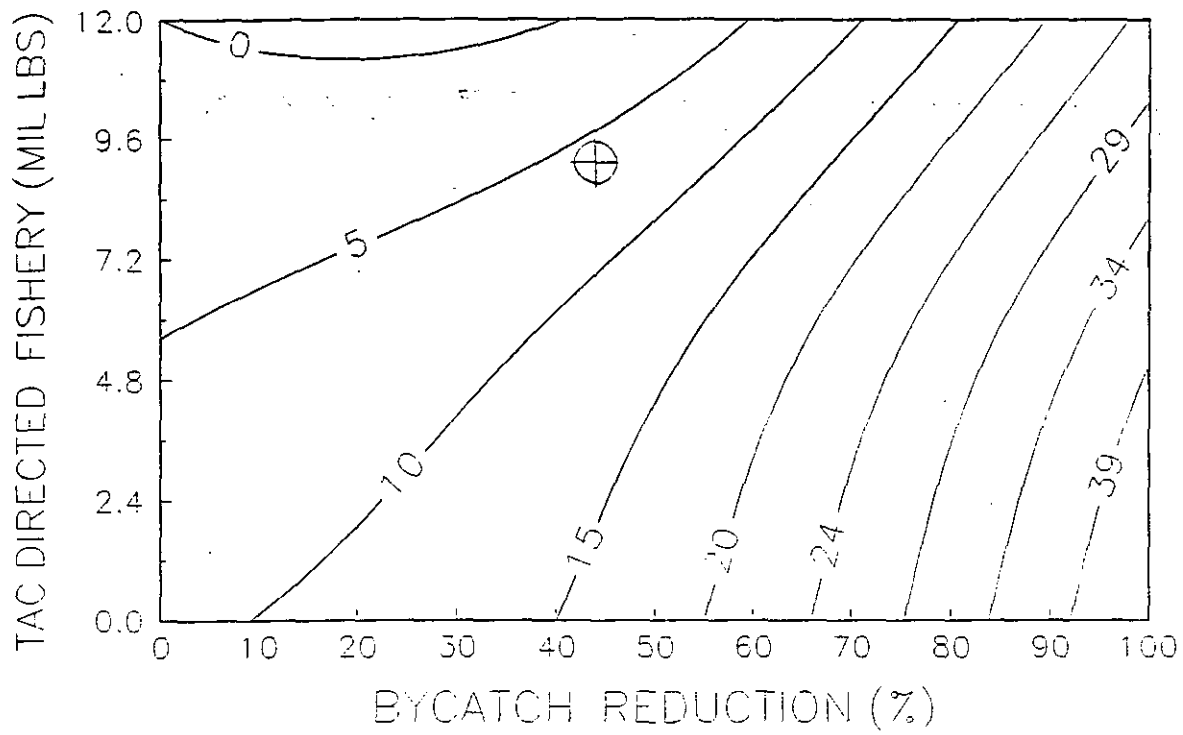
OPT	Bycatch Reduct	MinSize REC/COM	TAC REC	TAC COMM	Managed F	SPR in 2019	Yield in 1998	Yield in 2019
1	0.44	15/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.131	----	----
2	0.22	15/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.048	----	----
3	0.00	15/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.001	----	----
4	0.44	16/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.130	----	----
5	0.22	16/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.045	----	----
6	0.00	16/15	4.47	4.65	----	0.001	----	----
7	0.44	16/16	4.47	4.65	----	0.130	----	----
8	0.22	16/16	4.47	4.65	----	0.045	----	----
9	0.00	16/16	4.47	4.65	----	0.001	----	----
10	0.44	15/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.172	----	----
11	0.22	15/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.101	----	----
12	0.00	15/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.074	----	----
13	0.44	16/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.172	----	----
14	0.22	16/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.101	----	----
15	0.00	16/15	2.94	3.06	----	0.074	----	----
16	0.44	16/16	2.94	3.06	----	0.172	----	----
17	0.22	16/16	2.94	3.06	----	0.101	----	----
18	0.00	16/16	2.94	3.06	----	0.074	----	----
19	0.44	16/16	----	----	F20%SPR	----	0.16	42.2
20	0.44	16/16	----	----	F30%SPR	----	0.010	0.11
21	0.67	16/16	----	----	F20%SPR	----	2.38	121
22	0.67	16/16	----	----	F30%SPR	----	1.29	77.5
23	0.67	16/16	4.47	4.65	----	0.254	----	----
24	0.67	16/16	2.94	3.06	----	0.291	----	----
25	0.88	16/16	4.47	4.65	----	0.429	----	----
26	0.88	16/16	2.94	3.06	----	0.465	----	----
27	0.88	16/16	TAC?	TAC?	F20%SPR	----	3.36	232
28	0.88	16/16	TAC?	TAC?	F30%SPR	----	2.38	194

YEAR = 2019

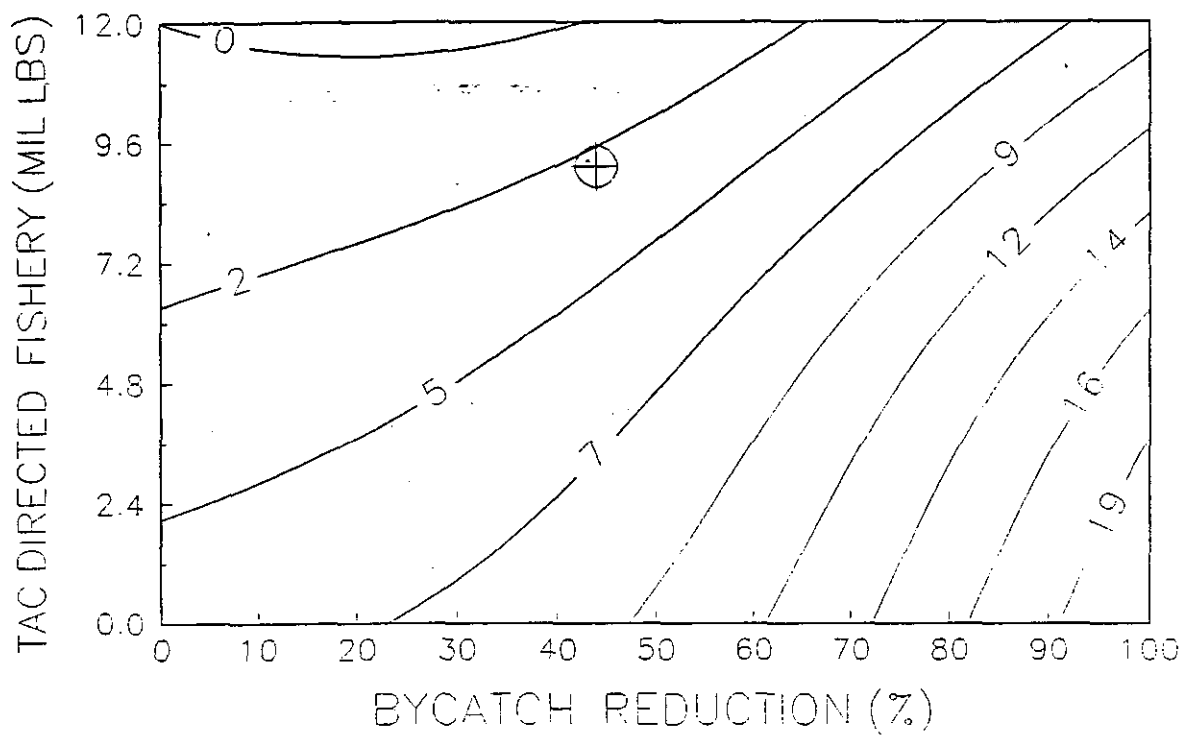


Red Snapper - Replacement Figure 16(b)

YEAR = 2013



YEAR = 2008





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

NOV 13 1997

F/SEO23:RS

Mr. James Jenkins, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

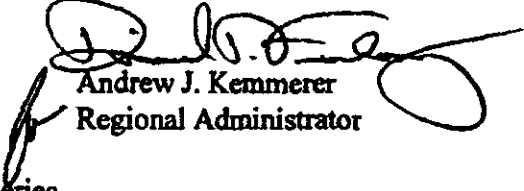
Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The recreational fishery for red snapper will close in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico starting 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997. Preliminary red snapper landings estimates indicate that the 4.47-million-pound annual recreational quota for red snapper will have been reached by then. NMFS is required to close the red snapper recreational fishery of the Gulf of Mexico when its quota is reached, or is projected to be reached.

Effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 27, 1997, through midnight, December 31, 1997, the recreational bag and possession limits for red snapper in or from Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico are zero. In addition, in the Gulf of Mexico on board a vessel for which a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued, the bag and possession limits for red snapper are zero, without regard to where the red snapper were harvested.

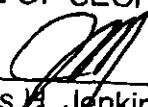
We request that Louisiana close the recreational fishery in state waters during the Federal closure period.

Sincerely Yours,



Andrew J. Kemmerer
Regional Administrator

cc: K. Foote, LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
F/SF - Matlock
F/SEC - Brown
GCSE - McLemore

LDWF	
OFFICE OF SECRETARY	
	
James H. Jenkins, Jr.	
Date 11/13/97	Time 14400



1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

The correct description for Ouachita Parish is as follows:

Area B

April 11-April 26

OUACHITA: East of LA 143 from Union parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to UNION parish line.

12/03/97

TO: SUSAN HAWKINS

FR: DANNY TIMMER

RE: CHANGE IN LOUISIANA REGISTER CONCERNING TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Under Area "A" VERNON PARISH the following is the correct wording.

VERNON: That portion east of Highway 171 from the Sabine parish line to the junction of Highway 111, south of Highway 111 westward to Highway 392, and south of Highway 392 westward to the Sabine parish line.

OUACHITA: East of LA 143 from Union parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to UNION parish line.

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

NOVEMBER 1997

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-NOVEMBER 1998

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-95

WMA&REFUGES-13

3-Boating

1-Angling W/o A License

2-Angling W/o A Non-Resident License

1-Hunting W/O Resident License

5-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

1-Failure To Abide By Commission rules

10-Hunting From Moving Vehicle

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

4-Hunt Across Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

2-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

3-Failure To Comply with Hunter Safety Regs.

4-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License

12-Take Deer Illegal Hours

3-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

3-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

1-Possess Over Limit of Deer

2-Field Possession Deer Meat Without Tag

1-Failure To Wear Hunter Orange

3-Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp

Page (2)

REGION I CONTD.

1-Hunt MB With Unplugged Gun

4-Field Possession Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season

2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Zone

3-Possession Over Limit Of Ducks

3-Hunt MGB Without State Stamp

1-Hunt MGB Without State Hunting License

13-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

3-Operate ATV On Public Road

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

1-Filing False Public Records

CONFISCATIONS:

2 resident hunting licenses, 1 resident fishing license, 21 ducks, 7 deer, 30 shells, 6 weapons.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1:

3-Boating

2-Fishing

55-Hunting

17-MGB

18-Misc.

Page (3)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-124

WMA&REFUGES-37

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-harassment Of Legal Hunter

1-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

2-Hunt From Moving Vehicle

2-Hunt Deer In Closed Area

13-Hunt From Public Road

13-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

4-Fail To Comply With Hunter Orange

4-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

2-Take Illegal Deer Open Season

1-Take Bobcat Illegal Methods

2-Possession Of Untagged Deer Meat

1-Using Lead Shot In Steel Shot Area

37-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Violation Of Scenic River Act

5-Criminal Trespass

4-Littering

8-Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia Exceeding General Speeding Law

1-Resist Officer

2-Operate ATV Public Road

Page (4)

REGION 2 CONTD.

2-Flight From An Officer

2-No Drivers License

9-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

1-D.W.I.

CONFISCATIONS:

6 illegal deer, 9 weapons, 3 Q Beam Spotlight, 4-3 lead shot shells

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

50-Hunting

4-Littering

13-Public Assistance

1-MGB

4-Assist Stranded Hunter

69-Other

4-Search For Lost Hunter

5-Assist Stranded Motorist

Page (5)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-180

WMA&REFUGES-65

5-Boating

6-Angling W/O License In Possession

16-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

15-Hunt From Moving Vehicle

17-Hunt Discharge Firearm From Public Road

1-Take Spotted Fawn

4-Possess/Take Illegal Deer Open Season

8-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

1-Possess Illegally Taken Deer

1-Hunt Deer In Closed Area

1-Fail To Abide By Commission Action

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

1-Hunt Wild Birds Illegal Hours

5-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

8-Hunt W/O Basic Resident License

6-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Bow Hunt W/O Bow License

2-Hunt W/O Basic Non-Resident Hunting License

2-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License

3-Hunt W/O State Duck Stamp

REGION 3 CONTD.

1-Hunt W/O Muzzleloader License

1-Trap W/O Basic Trapping License

43-Fail to Abide By Rules And Regs. On WMA

5-Hunt Ducks Over Baited Area

1-Aid And Abet Hunting Ducks Over Bait

2-Hunt MGB Illegal Hours

4-Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat

4-Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp

3-Using Lead Shot In Steel Shot Zone

2-Take Hawk No Season

2-Take Grebe No Season

6-Littering

2-Operate ATV On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

1 spotted fawn, 7 deer, 22 wood ducks, 25 teal, 13 gadwalls, 1 merganser, 2 ring neck ducks, 1 pintail, 2 shoveler, 1 red shoulder hawk, 3 grebe, 7 weapons, 1 headlight, 30 shotgun shells, 1 basic resident hunting license, 1 resident big game license.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3:

5-Boating	23-MGB	6-Littering
6-Sport Fishing	2-Other	
138-Hunting		

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-190

WMA&REFUGES-126

3-Boating

1-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

1-Transport Fish W/O Required License

6-Hunting W/O Resident License

15-Hunting From A Moving Vehicle

3-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

13-Hunting Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours

4-Hunt Across Road or Public Right-Of-Way

2-Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road Or Right-Of-Way

1-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

2-Hunt Deer Closed Area

1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Closed Season

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

3-Hunt Or Take Deer with Illegal Weapon

4-Fail To Comply With Hunters Orange

5-Hunt Raccoons Illegally

2-Take Over Limit Of Raccoons

Page (8)

REGION 4 CONTD.

1-Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun

3-Hunt MGB Illegal Hours

4-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot

1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

1-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

1-Taking Grebe

106-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

6 weapons, 1 light, 17 shotgun shells, 1 deer, 3 ducks.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

3-Boating

3-Fishing

67-Hunting

11-Federal

106-WMA Rules And Regs.

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-190

WMA&REFUGES-44

8-Boating

1-Sell or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

3-Angling W/o A Resident License

8-Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Take Or Possess Over limit Of Black Drum

4-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

1-Transport Fish W/O Required License

53-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Possession Of Over Limit Recreational Shrimp

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum

1-Possession OF Gun While Bow Hunting

4-Hunting W/O A Resident License

11-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Take Squirrels Illegal Methods

3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

14-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

REGION 5 CONTD.

7-Hunt Deer From Public Road

3-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

1-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Weapon

3-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

4-Hunt Raccoons Illegally

2-Hunt Quail Closed Season

5-Hunt Ducks Or Geese W/o Federal Stamp

7-Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun

8-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

9-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

2-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

3-Hunt MGB Without State Stamp

3-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

2-Other Than Wildlife

1-Trespass On Property After Forbidden

2-Hunt/Trap On DMAP Lands Without Permit From Owner/Lessee

1-Obtain License By Fraud

2-Flight From An Officer

1-Possess Over Limit Of Doves

1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

Page (11)

REGION 5 CONTD.

CONFISCATIONS:

4 raccoons, 39 ducks, 1 quail, 19,886 ½ lbs of shrimp returned, 17 undersize black drum, 3 doe deer, 76 shells, 4 wooden squirrel traps, 75 jug lines, 1 night blaster Q Beam, 1 plastic bag containing cut up sweet potatoes, 1 crack pipe and monies for seafood equal \$624.50.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

8-Boating

65-Hunting

27-Fishing

53-WMA Rules And Regs.

35-Federal Migratory

2-Other

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-95

WMA&REFUGES-13

22-Boating

7-Angling W/O A License

1-Angling W/O A Saltwater License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

3-Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Take/Possess Over limit Of Black Drum

7-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Use WMA Without A License Or Stamp

1-Possession Of Cocaine

1-Littering

1-Possession Of Firearm With Obliterated Serial Number

2-Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia

1-Possession Of Firearm By A Convicted Felon

1-Hunt Deer Closed Season

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light

1-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

3-Fish W/O A Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O A Recreational Gear License

8-Hunting W/OA Resident License

REGION 6 CONTD.

2-Hunting From A Moving Vehicle

2-Hunting With A Unplugged Gun

1-Hunting With Quadruped Illegal Hours

3-Hunt From A Public Road

1-Hunt From Levee Road

4-Hunting W/O A State Stamp

2-Hunt Alligators At Night With Firearm

2-Take Or Possess Alligators Closed Season

2-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

1-Hunt With Unsigned Duck Stamp

2-Wanton Waste Of MGB

2-Use Leads hot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

3-Possession Over limit of Ducks

CONFISCATIONS:

20 undersize black drum, 1 cast net, 2 bream, 1 sac-a-lait, 4 black bass,

1 large plastic bottle pipe with gas mask, 1 small glass dispenser, 1 glass pipe, 2 clear

plastic bags containing seeds believed to be marijuana, 1 pack of zig zag rolling papers, 1

Crown Royal bag containing various bullets, 140 shells, 9 green wing teal, 4 shoveler, 1

pintail, 1 mallard, 1 wood duck, 1 gadwall, 1 mirror, 1 razor blade and straw, 2 gallon

bags of alligator meat, 6.weapons, 1 boot with alligator blood.

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REGION 6 CONTD.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

22-Boating

15-Sport Fishing

30-Hunting

6-Misc.

4-Fur & Refuge

10-Federal

8-Other

Page (15)

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-187

WMA&REFUGES-43

7-Boating

3-Angling W/O Resident License

1-Transport Fish W/O Required License

7-Hunt W/O Basic License

3-Hunt W/O Non-Resident License

1-Bow Hunt W/O Bow License

26-Hunt From A Moving Vehicle

3-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

4-Hunting Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours

4-Hunt From Public Road

1-Possession Of Wild Quadrupeds W/O Permit

2-Possession Of Buckshot On Closed Gun Season

4-Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Requirements

7-Hunting Big Game W/O Resident Big Game License

16-Hunting Deer Illegal Hours

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

22-Hunting Deer From A Public Road

1-Possession Of Untagged Deer

13-No Hunters Orange

2-Hunting W/O Resident Muzzle loader License

REGION 7 CONTD..

2-Take Spotted Fawn

2-Take Over limit Of Raccoons

2-Take Non-Game Quadrupeds Illegally

43-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Illegal Possession Of Marijuana

2-Spotlighting From Public Road

2-Littering

2-Hunting In State Park

1-Trespassing

1-Possession Of Firearm Of Convicted Felon

1-DWI

CONFISCATIONS:

6 deer, 10 raccoons, 1 bobcat, 1 spotted fawn, 11 weapons, 3-Q Beams.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

7-Boating

2-Littering

1-Commercial Fishing

3-Sport Fishing

123-Hunting

8-Other

43-WMA Rules And Regs.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-130

WMA&REFUGES-46

10-Boating

2-Allow Another To Use Recreational License

21-Angle W/O A Basic License

8-Angle W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

4-Angle W/O A Saltwater License

2-Angle W/O A Non-resident Saltwater License

1-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp As Per 56:1391 E

1-Take Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum

1-Fail To Have Fish Intact

7-Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum

1-Take/Possess Undersized Speckled Trout

5-Take/Possess Undersized Black Drum

3-Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Speckled Trout

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

4-Leave Nets unattended

2-Possess Or Sell Undersized Crabs

8-Use More Than One Strike Net To Commercially Take Mullet

15-Take Commercial Mullet In Closed Season Or Illegal Hours

REGION 8 CONTD.

1-Use Oversize Butterfly Nets Or Skimmers

2-Violate Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary

3-Hunt W/O A Resident License

4-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours

1-Hunt MGB W/O A State Stamp

2-Hunt Ducks W/O A Federal Stamp

3-Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun

4-Hunt MGB From A Moving Motorboat

1-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

10-Other

CONFISCATIONS:

15,552 lbs. Of mullet sold for \$6,508.80, 8 speckled trout, 10 black drum, 6 red drum, 500 lbs. Of crabs, 400 lbs. Of mullet, 1 red drum, 155 speckled trout, 26 shark fillets, 1 sheep head, 34 red drum, 3 black bass, 18 black drum, 2 catfish, 18,000 feet of mullet strike net (15 nets), 2 butterfly nets, 1 ice chest, 5 basic recreational fishing licenses, 1 marine conservation stamp, 1 recreational trawl license, assorted drug paraphernalia.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

10-Boating

10-Other

8-Hunting

58-Recreational Fishing

10-MGB

34-Commercial Fishing

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

REGION 8

NOVEMBER 1997

COMPLAINTS

1. No shrimp complaints were received this month. Activity was at a minimal in inside waters. Activity in outside waters was largely in compliance-all season open.

PATROLS

1. Regular patrols by boat have been continued. Most shrimpers checked were in Compliance. Shrimp effort was down due to lack of shrimp.

INQUIRIES

1. We received a few inquiries for TED information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Gerald Horst.
2. We received fewer calls regarding the shrimp season openings and closings.

There were also a few calls regarding the change back to 1-1/4" mesh for the fall season.

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-201

WMA&REFUGES-25

34-Boating

18-Angling W/O A Basic License

1-Angling W/O a License Non-Resident

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

7-Angling W/O Saltwater License

6-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Possess Over limit Of Red Drum

11-Take Undersize Red Drum

18-Take Undersize Black Drum

8-Take Over limit Of Black Drum

2-Taking Fish Illegally

1-Blocking Passage Of Fish

1-Sell Undersize Crabs Over 20%

3-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef

15-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

2-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours And Illegal Light

2-Hunt MGB Without State Stamp

REGION 9 CONTD.

1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License

2-Possess Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

1-Obtain License Fraudulently

1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

6-Fail to Maintain Sex I.D.

6-Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tag

2-Hunt Raccoon Illegally

1-Hunting Ducks Without Federal Stamp

2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

2-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area

9-Hunting MGB From Moving Motorboat

1-Hunt MGB With Illegal Firearm

4-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB

2-Wanton Waste Of MGB

2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

5-Possession Over limit Of Ducks

1-Hunt Woodcocks In Closed Season

3-Possession Over limit Of Coots

1-Taking Of Other Non-Game No-Season

3-Criminal Trespass

1-D.W.I.

REGION 9 CONTD.

5-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA By Camping In Non-Designated Area

1-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

1-Misc. Federal Violations

1-Filing False Public Records

CONFISCATIONS:

51 teal ducks, 8 shovelers, 1 lesser scaup, 125 coots, 7 gallinules, 1 commorant, 1 pintail, 3 gadwall, 1 mottled duck, 1 wood cock, 1 wood duck, 3 deer, 56 sacks of oysters, 200 lbs. Of crabs, 100 lbs. Of mullet, 2 perch, 1 bass, 1 squirrel, 1 ice chest with electronic device, 1-6 volt battery, 1-12 volt battery, 1-7' steel rod, 1 dip net, 1 flat boat with motor, 1 resident big game license, 1 drivers license, 5 basic fishing license, 5 saltwater fishing license, 1 marine conservation stamp, 1-Q Beam, 3 weapons.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

34-Boating 1-Non Game MGB

74-Sport Fishing

4-Commercial Fishing

40-Hunting

32-MGB

3-Oyster

13-Other

Page (23)

S.W.E.P.

TOTAL CASES-30

95 BOATS CHECKED

95 HOURS RUNNING TIME

1-Boating

7-Possession Of Undersized Red Drum

1-Possession Over limit Of Red Drum

3-Possession Of Undersized Black Drum

1-Possession Over limit Of Black Drum

8-Angle Without Basic License

4-Angle Without Non-Resident License

3-Angle Without Saltwater License

1-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp As Per 56:13.1f

1-Federal Failure To Have MGB Intact

CONFISCATIONS:

47 red fish, 15 speckled trout, 25 black drum, 2 striped bass, 1 flounder, 15 coots, 2 catfish, 1 sheepshead, seafood sold for \$488.70, 1200 feet of unattended gill net.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

1-Boating

1-Federal

28-Sport Fishing

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-161

5-Boating

7-Take Oysters From Unapproved Area

9-Take Undersize Oysters From State Seed Grounds

3-Failure To Tag Sacked Oysters

2-Take Oysters Without Vessel License

1-Sanitary Code Violation-Improper Harvester Log Book

8-Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease

1-Failure To Cull Oysters In Proper Location

2-Take Oysters From Unmarked Lease

9-Sanitary Code-No Tarp-Failure to Cover Oysters

3-Sanitary Code-Failure To Timely Refrigerate Oysters

3-Take Oysters From Unleased State Water bottoms

3-Take Over limit Oysters-Calcasieu Regs.

18-Possess Undersize Red Drum

21-Possess Undersize Black Drum

20-Angling Without A Basic License

13-Fishing Without Saltwater License

13-Fishing Without Marine Conservation Stamp

1-Possess Over limit Of Striped Bass

1-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE CONTD.

4-Possess Over limit Of Red Drum

3-Possess Over limit Of Black Drum

1-Possess Over limit Of Red Drum Over 27 Inches

3-Take Ducks With Unplugged Gun

1-Take Ducks Without Federal Stamp

2-Take Ducks With Unapproved Shot

1-Take Over limit Of Ducks

1-Take Doves Without Basic Hunting License

1-Hunt Coots Without State Stamp

1-Driving Under Suspension

CONFISCATIONS:

230 sacks of oysters, 65 red drum, 86 black drum, 20 striped bass, 1 spotted sea trout, 10 ducks, 1 coot.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

5-Boating

51-Commercial Fishing

95-Recreational Fishing

9-Federal

1-Misc.

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SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL CASES-5

2-Take/Possess Over limit Of Red Drum

1-Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Fail To Tag Containerized Oysters

CONFISCATIONS:

70 lbs. Of redfish, 3 pints of oysters.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

3-Sport Fishing

2-Commercial Fishing

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-64

6-Boating

2-Angling W/O A License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Transport W/O Required License

1-Hunt W/O Resident License

1-Hunt w/O Non-Resident License

2-Hunt From A Moving Vehicle

1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/O Wild Birds Illegal Hours

1-Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road

1-Obtain License Fraudently

1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt Deer Closed Season

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods

1-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

3-Field Possession Of Deer Meat Without Tag

3-Fail To Maintain Sex I.D.

1-Hunt Quail Closed Season

1-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE CONTD.

2-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

1-Hunting MB with Unplugged Gun

3-Hunting MB Illegal Hours

2-Possession Of Completely Dressed MB

2-Wanton Waste Of MB

3-Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Zone

3-Possess Over limit Of Ducks

1-Taking Or Possession Other Non-Game Birds

2-Hunt MB Without State Stamp

12-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Criminal Trespass

1-Illegal Spotlighting From A Public Road

1-Operate ATV On A Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

3 deer stands, 4 weapons, 23 ducks, 1 deer, 15 coots, 1 quail, 8 lead shot shells.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE:

5-Boating

12-WMA

3-Sport Fishing

3-Misc.

1-Commercial Fishing

22-Hunting

18-MGB

Page (29)

TOTAL CASES WMA&REFUGES- 412

TOTAL CASES -1392

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
NOVEMBER, 1997

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 47.9

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. - 9.8

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 37.5

Enforcement Hours - 60.3

Other Divisions - 34.9

Total Plane Use - 95.2 Hrs.

NUTRIA HARVEST AND WETLAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Where did nutria come from?

- Nutria are native to South America.
- Nutria first came to Louisiana in 1937 when the McIlhenny's of Avery Island brought 13 nutria from Argentina.
- In 1940 some nutria escaped during a hurricane, became locally abundant and eventually populated the coastal marshes, inland swamps and all other wetland habitats of the state.
- Populations are concentrated in the fresh, intermediate and brackish marshes of the coastal zone. Nutria also inhabit the inland swamp habitat of the state.

How many nutria do we have in Louisiana?

- By 1955 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) estimated that there were 20 million nutria in Louisiana. Nutria were causing severe damage to agricultural crops, in particular eating sugar cane and damaging levees used for rice culture.
- A fur market developed in the 1960's and from that time until the late 1980's, 1 to 1.5 million nutria were harvested annually in Louisiana.
- Changes in the fur industry (fashion, over production of ranched mink, warm winters, and animal rights activities) resulted in a severe reduction in price and demand for nutria pelts.
- Since the late 1980's, the Louisiana harvest has averaged only 220,000 pelts.
- We estimate that there are several million nutria in Louisiana today. In the best habitat, nutria densities have been estimated as high as 18 nutria per acre.

What are the problems with nutria? Why are they such a nuisance?

- When the annual harvest falls below 500,000 nutria (every year since 1988) the LDWF has documented habitat damage in the coastal wetlands.

-Nutria are herbivores--feeding only on plants. Nutria dig into the marsh soils to eat the basal and root portions of the plants.

-Their feeding activity kills the marsh vegetation. The roots of the marsh vegetation binds the soft organic marsh soils together. When this root fabric dies, the soils become susceptible to erosion which ultimately results in coastal land loss.

-In the Barataria-Terrebonne Basin (an area between the Atchafalaya River and the Mississippi River) more than 80,000 acres of marsh are currently being impacted by nutria feeding activity.

-Additionally nutria burrow into levees along drainage canals in residential areas. LDWF has issued a permit to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office to remove nutria to protect the integrity of their levee system.

-Some farmers have problems with nutria in South Louisiana. The nutria burrow into rice field levees and eat sugar cane.

How do we manage nutria populations?

-Nutria are managed as a furbearer and the harvest is regulated by the establishment of an annual trapping season (November 20 through March 20).

-During the trapping season you can harvest take nutria if you are properly licensed (\$25 trapping license) and have permission from the landowner.

-Since 1987, the LDWF (through the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council) has conducted various marketing and education projects in an attempt to increase the demand for nutria pelts.

-In 1995 LDWF, the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources (LDHHR) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) established rules and regulations to allow nutria meat to be processed for human consumption.

-The goal of these endeavors is to increase the value of nutria to facilitate a sufficient economic incentive to encourage trappers to harvest more nutria.

What is the Nutria Harvest and Wetland Demonstration Project?

-In 1997 funding for the project was approved by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force (Breaux Bill Task Force) and the State Wetlands Authority.

-The 5-year project will be initiated in November 1997 and is comprised of 3 major components: 1) Plan develop and conduct various nutria meat marketing activities, 2) Conduct a coast wide nutria herbivory survey; and 3) provide incentive payments to trappers and nutria meat processors.

How are you developing the meat consumption market? What is the plan?

-LDWF, working with marketing and food science specialists will : 1) identify potential local national and international markets, 2) identify and develop nutria meat products, 3) evaluate processing costs and product price structure, 4) develop, evaluate and distribute recipes, and 4) develop market specific promotional strategies.

What is the purpose of the coast wide herbivory survey?

-LDWF will determine the location and extent of the damage caused by nutria feeding activity in the coastal Parishes from Cameron to St. Tammany.

-Specific site locations will be plotted on maps to allow trappers to plan harvest activities in area where habitat damage is occurring.

-Damaged areas will be inspected periodically to determine if the marsh habitat will be permanently damaged or if vegetative recovery will occur.

How will the incentive payment system function?

-Trappers which bring a quality nutria to an approved processor will be eligible for a \$1.00 per nutria payment.

-Approved nutria meat processors will qualify for a \$0.75 payment per pound of nutria meat product sold for human consumption.

-Trappers and processors will be required to follow very specific regulations in order to qualify for payment.

-Funding for the incentive payments will not be available until November 1998.

What are some of the potential markets for nutria meat?

-Nutria, raised on fur farms during the 1970's and 1980's, were considered a delicacy in restaurants in Europe. Those fur farms no longer exists but we will attempt to reestablish the markets for nutria meat.

-The Far East, China, Korea and other Pacific Rim countries hold great market potential.

-Locally, many people have eaten nutria and several restaurants have expressed an interest in this new product.

What chefs are cooking nutria? Methods of preparation?

-Paul Prudhomme, Enola Prudhomme , John Folse and many others have prepared nutria.

-Nutria meat can be used in many ways including: sausage, chili, bar-b-que, pot roast, chicken fried, baked, and the list is only limited by one's creativeness.

-Nutria eat only vegetation, so the meat is similar in taste, texture and appearance to rabbit.

Is the meat safe and healthy to eat?

-Pennington Biomedical Center in Baton Rouge conducted a complete nutritional analysis and determined that nutria meat was high in protein (22%) and low in fat (1%). (See Attached Table)

-LDWF, LDHHR and LDAF worked cooperatively to evaluate the safety and applicability of nutria meat as a human food source.

-Nutria were determined to be safe for human consumption.

-The LDHHR will inspect, approve and license all nutria meat processing facilities.

-The LDAF will inspect and monitor the processing of 100% of the nutria meat.

For more information, who should I contact?

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Fur and Refuge Division
2415 Darnall Rd.
New Iberia, La. 70560
Phone: (318) 373-0032
Fax: (318) 373-0181

Contact Person: Noel Kinler

E-mail: Kinler_N@WLF.STATE.LA.US

NUTRIA HARVEST AND WETLAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FACT SHEET

- * Nutria native to South America.
- * Arrived in Louisiana in 1937. E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island brought 13 from Argentina.
- * Escaped into the wild in 1940 And spread across coastal Louisiana.
- * Nutria are very prolific; average litter size of 4-5 young and gestation period of 130 days.
- * In the 70s and early 80s in excess of 1 to 1.5 million nutria pelts were harvested annually, indicating a substantial population.
- * Several million nutria in Louisiana today, living in wetland areas, particularly coastal region.
- * Nutria eat the marsh vegetation, primarily roots and stems. In coastal Louisiana, areas of Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Charles and Jefferson Parishes more than 80,000 acres of marsh are currently being damaged by nutria.
- * They also burrow into the levees. LDWF issued a permit to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office to destroy the animal to protect the integrity of their levee system along drainage canals in urban areas. An estimated 10,000 animals were living in 300 miles of canals and had caused millions of dollar of damage.
- * Some farmers have problems with nutria burrowing into levees and eating sugar cane.
- * Traditionally, nutria harvested for the fur. Price of the fur has declined. If we can get additional revenue as meat, nutria value increases, more people will trap, and we can regain control of the population.
- * The Fur and Alligator Advisory Council working through LDWF continues to promote the use of nutria fur in international markets.
- * LDWF has worked cooperatively with LDAF and LDHHR to develop guidelines and approval for the sale of nutria meat for human consumption.

- * Pennington Biomedical Center conducted a nutritional analysis of nutria meat and determined that nutria were high in protein (22%) and low in fat (1%).
- * Meat from captive nutria in Europe is considered a delicacy and during the 1980's millions of pounds were consumed.
- * In 1997 funding was approved by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force (Breau Bill Task Force) and the State Wetlands Authority to help LDWF develop a market for the human consumption of nutria meat.
- * This 5-year program has 3 major components: 1) Plan, develop and conduct various nutria meat marketing activities, 2) Conduct a coast wide nutria herbivory survey, and 3) Provide incentive payments to trappers and nutria meat processors.
- * Will attempt to develop interest in Asian markets, re-establish European markets like Poland and Germany where nutria was historically used for meat, and establish a domestic market as we did with alligator. Alligators are harvested for hide and meat, and the goal is the same for nutria.
- * Paul Prudhomme, Enola Prudhomme, and John Folse have prepared nutria meat.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Candidate Project Information Sheet

Project Name: Nutria Harvest and Wetland Restoration Demonstration Project
Submitted by: - Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the
National Marine Fisheries Service
Noel Kinler, LDWF (318) 373-0032
Richard Hartman, NMFS (504) 389-0508

Purpose: To increase the long term sustainability of nutria harvest by creating
a nutria meat industry

JUSTIFICATION

The earliest occurrence of Louisiana's wild nutria population has been traced back to actions taken by E. A. McIlhenny, who imported 13 Argentine fur farm nutria in 1937 (Evans 1970, Kinler 1993). Those nutria reproduced and, as a result of a storm in 1940, escaped into the marshes surrounding Avery Island. Later efforts by State and Federal agencies and others also resulted in nutria being widely released into the wild in Louisiana and other states.

By the late 1950's, it was estimated that there were 20 million nutria in coastal Louisiana (Kinler 1993). At that time, their impacts on sugarcane and rice culture became so severe that the Federal government began a research program to determine the best nutria control methods. At the same time, the impacts of nutria on coastal marsh vegetation began to be reported (Chabreck et al. 1959; Harris and Webert 1962). Later, scientific research using exclosure devices demonstrated the severe impact of nutria herbivory on live and dead biomass of *Sagittaria* in the Atchafalaya Delta (Fuller et al. 1985) and on *Scirpus olneyi* and *Spartina patens* in Barataria Basin marshes (Foote and Johnson et al. 1993).

From the mid 1960's through the early 1980's over 1 million nutria per year were harvested in Louisiana during the annual trapping season. During this time, nutria herbivory damage was minimal because of controlled nutria populations. In recent years, because of the low cost of nutria pelts, trapping effort coast wide has been reduced and the average harvest of pelts is significantly lower than during historic periods.

Although the exact acreage of marsh in coastal Louisiana damaged by nutria is unknown, some acreage figures are available for marshes in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. Linscombe and Kinler (1996) estimated that over 12,600 acres of marsh in the study area were damaged along transect lines run in May 1993. That acreage estimate increased to over 15,400 acres as a result of transects flown in December 1993. Most of the damaged sites identified in the May survey had not recovered by December. Damage was not limited to one particular marsh type. Indeed, swamps and bottomland hardwoods, as well as fresh, intermediate, and brackish marshes were among those identified as damaged by Linscombe and Kinler (1996). In Spring 1996 damaged acreage increased to 20,642 along the transects. One perceived result of nutria herbivory included the conversion of marsh habitats to floatant marsh, which is much more

susceptible to hurricane storm damage (Linscombe, personal communication.)

In the last two decades landowners, as well as local, state and federal governmental agencies have spent millions of dollars and implemented a variety of projects in an effort to reduce marsh loss and create additional vegetative habitat in open water areas. However, lacking adequate control of nutria populations, these restoration activities may not provide the expected level of benefit nor would they offset losses in other areas resulting from herbivory. The most obvious method of controlling nutria populations is encouraging their harvest by increasing their value. The critical dollar amount necessary to make nutria trapping economically viable to the trappers was reported in 1992 to be approximately \$4 to \$5 per animal (Kinler 1993). Because pelt prices averaged between \$1-\$3 each in recent years, it is obvious that other commercially valuable uses for nutria must be found to encourage their harvest.

In 1995, the Louisiana Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Health and Hospitals (DHH), and Agriculture and Forestry (DAF) developed rules and regulations for the commercial harvest and processing of nutria for human consumption. They did process nutria for alligator food. Nutria meat is extremely healthy, being higher in protein and carbohydrates and lower in fat and cholesterol than several commonly consumed game and domestic animals. Furthermore, if adequately stored after harvest and prepared correctly, nutria meat can be the basis of a delicious meal. Unfortunately, during 1995 and 1996, none of the six processing plants processed nutria for human consumption because of the lack of demand for the meat and inadequate communication and coordination with trappers.

The purpose of this demonstration project is to determine, on a local level, if a system can be developed that encourages and facilitates nutria harvest by increasing demand for their meat. This would be done by matching CWPPRA funds with those of participating meat processing plants to adequately compensate trappers for their efforts. To encourage their participating in the project, processors would receive a supply of nutria meat at a unit cost significantly lower than other meats. This cost savings could then be transferred to the retail outlets, and then to consumers, to encourage participation and consumption. Other critical project components include recipe development and publication, as well as the development of an advertising and marketing strategy.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries would be the primary administrator for the program. They have experience in overseeing harvests and sales of nutria, as well as other Louisiana wildlife, such as alligators. They have a budget mechanism in place to provide the incentive payment to the program participants. They have expressed a strong support for, as well as a desire to be in charge of, this program. Staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Restoration Center, would oversee project funding and implementation.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The LDWF will administer and monitor the **Nutria Harvest Incentive Program** through a regulatory process involving licensed nutria meat processors and licensed trappers. This program will involve development and implementation of a Nutria Meat Marketing Plan, identification of coastal areas impacted by nutria herbivory, quantification of statewide nutria harvest and nutria meat sales, and monitoring of impacted area recovery and nutria meat sales. Selected trappers will be interviewed to determine harvest location and intensity and to relate harvest to impact of herbivory. Submission of various purchase and sales records are required to provide for accurate accounting and disbursement of funds.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Licensed Nutria Meat Processors:

Licensed nutria meat processors who desire to participate in this program will provide the following components.

- 1) Processors will receive nutria from the trappers and divide the nutria into one of two categories for payment. A) Nutria deemed suitable for human consumption will be purchased at current market price (paid by the processor). This current market price includes the value of the pelt and its worth as alligator food. In addition, through CWPPRA funding, LDWF will pay the trapper an additional \$1.00 per nutria. B) Nutria deemed unsuitable for human consumption will be purchased at current market price (paid by the processor). These nutria will be processed for alligator food.
- 2) Processors will provide records of all nutria purchased. **Whole Nutria Purchase Records** will contain date of purchase, name, address and trapper license number of seller along with a tally of nutria purchased by size and grade of meat and price paid for each.
- 3) Processors will provide **Nutria Processing Records** (completed daily) listing the number of nutria processed for human consumption and poundage of meat processed in each form (bone-in, deboned, etc.). Number and pounds of meat processed must correspond to the processors' **Whole Nutria Purchase Records**.
- 4) Processors will provide **Nutria Meat Sales Records** which must contain date of sale and name and address of purchaser along with description of product sold, poundage and price. Through CWPPRA funding, LDWF will pay the processor \$0.75 per pound of nutria meat sold for human consumption.
- 5) Processors will be expected to offer nutria meat for sale at a reasonable price to

encourage sales and ultimately consumption.

- 6) Processors will follow all rules and regulations established by LDWF, DHH and LDAF as well as obtaining all necessary permits, licenses and inspections.

Licensed Trappers:

Licensed trappers who desire to participate in this program will provide the following components.

- 1) Trappers will provide completed **Nutria Harvest Record Forms** detailing their nutria harvest along with a description of the area (map) where nutria were harvested. Provide copies of nutria sales receipts (**Whole Nutria Purchase Record**) verifying number of nutria sold by size and meat grade and price of each. Sales receipts will contain the name, address, and license number of the nutria meat processor making the purchase along with the date of the sale. These receipts must correspond to those submitted by the nutria meat processor.
- 2) Through an interview process, trappers will provide a qualitative assessment of nutria populations and impact from herbivory in the area they trapped and an overall assessment of their trapping activity.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries:

LDWF will provide the following components.

- 1) Develop an appropriate cooperative agreement for nutria meat processors. The cooperative agreement will outline the specific responsibility of each participant.
- 2) Develop the application procedure, advise each participating entity of their individual responsibility and set appropriate time frames for application process.
- 3) Receive, process, and notify applicants of their enrollment in the program.
- 4) Develop all appropriate forms :
 - A. Nutria Harvest Record (Trapper)
 - B. Whole Nutria Purchase Record (Nutria Meat Processor)
 - C. Nutria Processing Record (Nutria Meat Processor)
 - D. Nutria Meat Sales Record (Nutria Meat Processor)
- 5) Periodically during the trapping season, review the required records submitted by each participant, determine eligibility of each request and issue appropriate payment.

- 6) LDWF will conduct an initial coast wide aerial survey to document current year impact of nutria herbivory. Survey techniques will follow Linscombe and Kinler (1996). Results will be analyzed and estimates of acreage impacted calculated. Damaged areas will be plotted on maps and compared to harvest assessments obtained through trapper interviews. It is recognized that the information obtained from the trapper interviews may be limited in its usefulness to assess program effectiveness. Areas of severe damage will be targeted for increased trapper effort through coordination of LDWF, coastal landowners and trappers. Subsequent year monitoring surveys will be limited in scope to areas with the greatest herbivory impact.
- 7) In conjunction with other State Agencies, various Universities and consultants will develop a Nutria Meat Marketing Plan. This plan will: A) identify potential markets, products and consumers, B) coordinate and facilitate sales from processors to exporters, wholesalers and retailers, C) develop an advertising and marketing strategy for various nutria meat products, and D) develop a nutria meat cookbook or recipe cards, complete with nutritional information, and provide copies to processors, wholesalers, exporters and retailers.
- 8) Prepare an annual report to evaluate the Nutria Harvest Incentive Program. The report will evaluate program participation, nutria harvest statistics, nutria meat processing and sales information, disbursement of funds, vegetative monitoring data, and recommendations for next years program.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- 1) Demonstrate that nutria can be efficiently captured and processed in a state fit for human consumption.
- 2) Document the current extent of nutria herbivory impact in coastal Louisiana.
- 3) Convey herbivory information to landowners and encourage trapping activity in impacted areas.
- 4) During the 5-year project, follow selected damage sites and document continued damage and/or recovery. Those areas selected for greater trapping effort will have greater monitoring to document harvest impacts.
- 5) Develop a nutria meat marketing plan which will generate consumer interest in nutria meat and generate a demand that will encourage the continued harvest of nutria after completion of CWPPRA demonstration project.

- 6) Document quantity of nutria meat sold for human consumption along with a description of types of products developed.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- 1) Disbursement of these funds to trappers may assist in encouraging some to remain in the fur trapping business.
- 2) Use of nutria meat for human consumption may decrease public sentiment against the harvesting of nutria for furs only.

BUDGET COMPONENTS

Trapping Season/ Fiscal Year	Year 1 1997-1998	Year 2 1998-1999	Year 3 1999-2000	Year 4 2000-2001	Year 5 2001-2002
LDWF	80,000	100,000	100,000	70,000	50,000
Nutria Meat Marketing Plan	100,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	
Trapper Payments ¹		100,000	100,000	100,000	
Nutria Meat Processor Payment ²		350,000	350,000	350,000	
NEPA Compliance	20,000				
TOTAL	200,000	650,000	600,000	570,000	50,000

¹\$1.00 per nutria suitable for human consumption

²\$0.75 per pound of nutria meat sold for human consumption

The total funds requested for this demonstration are \$2,070,000. It should be noted that the budget for Year 2 may be high because it may take a year to get the trappers really involved. Should funds for Year 2 not be spent, they would be available for use, in the same categories, for later years. Movement of funds between categories will not be allowed in most instances. It should also be noted that the majority of funds are in payments to trappers and meat processors. If those funds are spent, the project would likely be deemed a success.

Additionally, because there is no construction involved, construction, contingency, engineering and design, etc. funds are not necessary. The majority of the funding for LDWF includes monitoring and report preparation, therefore additional monitoring funds may not be necessary. Funds are included in the budget for NEPA compliance, however permits from LDNR, LDEQ, and NOD are not needed.

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- Linscombe, G. And N. Kinler. 1996. A survey of vegetative damage caused by nutria herbivory in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins. Report to Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. 14 pp. + tables, figures and appendices.



STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

932 ANGELA STREET
ARABI, LOUISIANA 70032
(504) 279-2555
FAX (504) 277-5684

KENNETH L. ODINET, SR
DISTRICT 103

NATURAL RESOURCES
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON CAPITAL OUTLAY

December 2, 1997

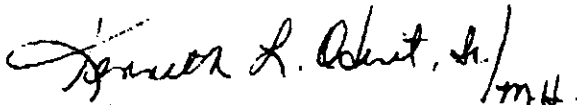
James Jenkins, Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
FAX: 766-2818

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

It is my understanding that at the next Wildlife & Fisheries meeting the Commission will consider the possible extension of the inshore shrimp season east of the Mississippi River.

Local fishermen feel that an extension of the season would allow them to harvest white shrimp that made it into the system late and it would also allow them to harvest excessive amounts of sheephead and blackdrum which pose a threat to shrimp, crab and oyster production. Your favorable consideration in extending the season would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Kenneth L. Odinet, Sr.

Cc: Terry Ryder
John Roussel
WLF Commission Members

The Louisiana House of Representatives



The following document is from:

REPRESENTATIVE KENNETH L. ODINET

Fax #: (504) 277-5664

Wildlife & Fisheries Commission Members 12/2/97
TO: _____ DATE _____

504-765-0948 2
Fax Number: _____ Number of pages including cover: _____

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT

Mary (504) 279-2555
_____. AT _____. Thank you!

Remarks:

1998		April			1998	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 HOLIDAY	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-DEC-1997

CURRENT MONTH
11/01/1997 TO 11/30/1997
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/1997 TO 11/30/1997
INCEPTION TO DATE
11/30/1997

	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	23	\$54,965.34	88	\$91,161.53	3,464	\$2,350,219.35
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	133	\$3,325.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21

	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	23	\$54,965.34	88	\$91,161.53	3,464	\$2,155,630.11
PAYMENTS	10	\$2,424.86-	58	\$10,742.63-	2,246	\$349,334.93-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	7	\$1,218.28-	48	\$6,162.46-	1,524	\$173,023.96-
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$1.00	1	\$1.00	93	\$1,614.27
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	37	\$7,150.51
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	18	\$78,254.09
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$36.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	13	\$10.22-
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	18	\$6,532.69
REASSESSMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	52	\$33,593.61-
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	206	\$112,914.44-
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.02-	6	\$1,399.24-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$58.90-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	21	\$22,867.51-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING					992	\$1,548,202.65

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	0	\$0.00	2	\$49.00	57	\$11,069.67
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR	0	\$0.00	1	\$12.25	2	\$2,767.41
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00		\$3,202.60		\$3,202.60 *

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-DEC-1997

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00	CAN NOT BE INVOICED CURRENT	3	\$125.52
1 - 30 DAYS	4	\$624.50	1 - 30 DAYS	26	\$56,333.47
31 - 60 DAYS	14	\$2,624.30		3	\$1,019.54
61 - 90 DAYS	12	\$24,883.95	31 - 90 DAYS	10	\$19,188.12
91 - 120 DAYS	15	\$4,635.40			
121 - 150 DAYS	14	\$9,150.60	91 - 180 DAYS	12	\$12,730.91
151 - 180 DAYS	10	\$2,186.70	181 - 365 DAYS	50	\$28,210.55
181 - 365 DAYS	43	\$21,623.40	CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	109	\$506,698.59
OVER ONE YEAR	176	\$176,890.23	OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	\$0.00
OVER TWO YEARS	155	\$118,773.80	OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	779	\$923,895.95
OVER THREE YEARS	101	\$64,787.22			
		=====			
** TOTAL AGING	544	\$426,180.10	** TOTAL AGING	992	\$1,548,202.65

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,238)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May., 1995	23	11,632		16	4,315	654		
June 1995	45	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May., 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1996	40	71,894		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May., 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997	5	8,037		10	2,335	765		
Total FY 1997	310	410,373	0	288	52,794	27,290	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	2,812		8	1,585	823		
Aug., 1997	14	8,741		8	1,496	779		
Sept., 1997	29	19,926		12	2,052	1,278		
Oct., 1997	12	4,717		23	3,185	2,064		
Nov., 1997	23	54,965		10	2,425	1,218		
Dec., 1997								
Jan., 1998								
Feb., 1998								
Mar., 1998								
Apr., 1998								
May., 1998								
June 1998								
Total FY 1998	88	91,162	0	61	10,743	6,162	18.5%	69.3%

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

December 4, 1997

10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 1997
3. Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year - Winton Vidrine
4. Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources / Danny Babin
OMF - does not have necessary info 2 not listed/computerized by state!
5. Discussion of Charterboat License Fees - Danny Babin
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Importation of White-Tailed Deer - Fred Kimmel
7. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope - Fred Kimmel
8. Declaration of Emergency - Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove - Ron Dugas
9. Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure - John Roussel
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November - Winton Vidrine
11. Division Reports
 - a. Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration - Noel Kinler
 - b. Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project - Edmond Mouton
 - c. Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1 - Mark Schexnayder
12. Set April 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjourn

need to advise coastal landowners of project possibility before final decision is rendered by the Dept.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary
97-313



CONTACT
504/765-2923
11/26/97

DECEMBER WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING SET

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, 1997, in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of Nov. 6, 1997, Commission meeting.
3. Presentation of award to Agent of the Year.
4. Discussion of HR 33 with representatives from Miss. Department of Marine Resources.
5. Discussion of charter boat license fees.
6. Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent: importation of white-tailed deer.
7. Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent: hunting of farm-raised white-tailed deer, exotic deer and antelope.
8. Declaration of Emergency: adjust daily sack limit for oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove.
9. Declaration of Emergency: request from National Marine Fisheries Service for compatible red snapper closure.
10. Enforcement and Aviation reports — November.
11. Division reports.
 - a. Nutria harvest for wetlands restoration.
 - b. Marsh Island whooping crane project.
 - c. Report on status of shrimp in Zone 1.
12. Set April 1998 meeting date.
13. Public comments.
14. Adjourn.

-30-

This public document was printed at a cost of \$. 6.40. Four hundred copies of this document were printed in this first and only printing. This document was printed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to provide timely information about department programs for numerous interest groups and the general public. This document was printed in accordance with the printing standards for state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

faxed 9:23 AM

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Nick Vinterella

Fax #: 504-748-5044

Subject: Commission Agenda

Date: December 1, 1997

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

November 24, 1997

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 4, 1997, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 1997
3. Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year
4. Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
5. Discussion of Charterboat License Fees
6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Importation of White-Tailed Deer
7. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope
8. Declaration of Emergency - Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove
9. Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November
11. Division Reports
 - a. Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration
 - b. Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project
 - c. Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1
12. Set April 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjourn

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 24, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: December Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 4, 1997, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 1997
3. Presentation of Award to Agent of the Year

CHAIRMAN BABIN

4. Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
5. Discussion of Charterboat License Fees

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Importation of White-Tailed Deer
7. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

8. Declaration of Emergency - Adjust Daily Sack Limit for Oysters in Calcasieu Lake and West Cove

9. Declaration of Emergency - Request from National Marine Fisheries Service for Compatible Recreational Red Snapper Closure

WINTON VIDRINE

10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November
11. Division Reports
 - a. Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration
 - b. Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project
 - c. Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1
12. Set April 1998 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Corky Perret

Fax #: 601-385-5917

Subject: December Commission Agenda

Date: November 25, 1997

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Corky--Chairman Babin asked me to fax a copy of the December Commission Agenda to you for your information. If you have any questions, please call.

Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Danny Babin

Fax #: 504-563-4202

Subject: December Agenda

Date: November 20, 1997

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached and give me a call. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

November , 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: December Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 4, 1997, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 1997
3. Presentation of Award to the Agent of the Year

CHAIRMAN BABIN

4. Discussion of HCR 33 with Representatives from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
5. Discussion of Charterboat License Fees

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Importation of White-Tailed Deer
7. Declaration of Emergency & Notice of Intent - Hunting of Farm Raised White-Tailed Deer, Exotic Deer & Antelope

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1997

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November
9. Division Reports
 - a. Nutria Harvest for Wetlands Restoration
 - b. Marsh Island - Whooping Crane Project
 - c. Report on Status of Shrimp in Zone 1
10. Set April 1998 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, November 18 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on December 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

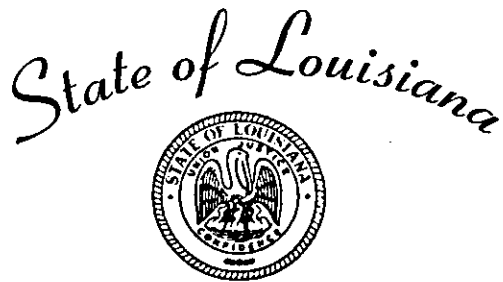
Wildlife Division

Nov. 18, 1997

2- Declaration of Emergency and Notice of
Intent, Hunting of Farm Raised White-tailed
Deer, Exotic Deer and Antelope - Fred Rimmel

1 - Declaration of Emergency and Notice of
Intent, Importation of ~~White~~ White-tailed
Deer - Fred Rimmel

H. Bateman



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

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cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman ✓

Susan.
items for Dec 4th Commission
Meeting.

Division Reports

*① Nutria Harvest for Wetlands
Restoration - Noel Kinder*

*② Marsh Island - Whooping Crane
Project. - Edmund Mouton*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote ✓
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

11-6-97
Return to Karen
by 11-14-97

Kare 11-19-97

No items at
this time. Kare

Division Report -
Report on Status
of Shrimp in Zone
1- Mark

Circulars -

ROUTING LIST	DATE:
RECEIVED	
FOOTE	
BOUDREAU	
BLANCHET	
DUGAS	
HARRIS	
SCHEIDT	
SCHNEIDER	11/12
SHEPARD	
Thomas	GT 11/12



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Dear Susan:
I have no items
for the agenda of the Dec. 4th
Commission Meeting.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bennie Fontenot
Wildlife Fisheries Div.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

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cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
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Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

*Commission End Report
Presentation Agent
of the Year Award*

*W.V.
11-7-97*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

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Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat ✓
Phil Bowman

NO

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

November 6, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 4, 1997

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, November 18 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on December 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman